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WARREN ISHAM, EDITOR.

No. 12, NEW SERIES.

For the Michigan Farmer.

REDFORD, April 22d, 1851.

BREAKING COLTS.

Mr. Editor:

I have concluded to furnish a few thoughts for your excellent paper, upon the subject of rearing and breaking young horses. I consider raising horses as profitable to farmers, in many portions of this State, as any branch connected with our agricultural interests.

But the profit, in rearing horses, depends very materially upon the manner of their training.—Indeed, many a noble animal has been spoiled, or nearly so, by bad management in breaking.—Often the constitution is so broken, that the naturally mettlesome creature is despoiled of all spirit or ambition.

I would, in the first place, state that there is a great fault among farmers generally, with regard to keeping colts. They should never be suffered to get poor, at least not until four years old. The shape and form, as well as size, of many colts, are materially impaired by poor keeping the first two winters. If a colt is suffered to get down thin in the winter, it will not only require the greater part of summer to get him back where he was the fall before, but his head and limbs will grow large and ill-shaped.

The colt, at weaning, should be put into a field where there is water, with a trough to feed grain; and from that time until one year old, should have grain every day. Many colts are spoiled during the first three months after weaning. Taken from the mare, fat, round and handsome, they are turned where they have but little feed, less water, and no grain, and left to run until almost starved to death—then kept the rest of the winter on straw, without shelter. In the spring they are lousy, and but just alive, and never so good care afterward cannot make such colts what they would otherwise have been.

Colts should have grain every winter until four years old. I would commence breaking the winter before three years old. See that the colt is in a good, healthy, thriving condition. Never broke a poor, weak colt, unless you want to break his constitution. I would get a new rope, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in diameter, of which make a slip-halter; a larger rope would be burdensome—one much

smaller would be apt to indent the grisly part of the nose, and thus injure the shape of the face.—When haltered, the colt should not be tied fast, as they will be liable to pull and strain the cords of the neck; but hold the rope with sufficient strength to keep them, slacking up occasionally, to relieve the muscles of the head and neck.

When sufficiently subdued to be managed by one hand, which will generally take but a few moments, the person holding the rope should walk to and fro before him, giving at each side a slight jerk upon the rope, which, in a little time, will learn the animal to follow the string before it is pulled. This should be done daily, until he can be led, or handled, anywhere. Next apply the bit. Never use a curb, but take a bridle with a common snaffle bit, with gag reins to hold up the head, and martingals to hold in the nose—the reins attached to a crupper and fastened firmly on the back with a circingle. The reins should not be drawn too tight at first, but may be buckled up occasionally, until drawn close, and kept in this condition the greater part of the day, for at least one week, taking off the bit at night.—While biting, handle, curry, and drive around.

Next put on the harness. Secure, if possible, a harness with gag reins, crupper, martingals, &c.; buckle all up close. After a little, attach to some light vehicle, and drive on a walk—learn a colt to walk first, a quicker pace can be acquired afterwards. A colt should never be put to a load requiring his utmost strength to move, until four years old. Colts may be driven in a harness, with a light load, without injury, much younger than they can be used under the saddle. They should be trained in the stable, to understand and obey all that is said to them. Learn a colt to go, and back, and hold back, by the word of mouth.—Never whip, except in the stable. If a young horse is inclined to stop, or balk, as it is called, (when they manifest this disposition) stop them, and never let them know that they stop of their own accord.

Never hurry a fickle horse, young or old.—Slack up or lay down your reins, and wait patiently fifteen minutes; then start quietly, and so manage until entirely cured, which will seldom fail.

Colts, after driving, should be cleaned and

rubbed thoroughly before entirely cool; this will prevent soreness, wind-galls, &c.

When thoroughly trained to the harness, then break to ride. This should be done by one hand—good bridle, martingals, girth drawn tight—get on, and stick. If well trained to the bit and harness, there will be no difficulty in breaking to ride.

As this is my first essay on horse-breaking, I think I will stop here, for the present.

Yours truly,

E. C.

For the Michigan Farmer.

THE NEW SYSTEM.

(Continued.)

Mr. Editor:

Admitting that Michigan is a wheat growing State, the producers of the staple commodity, in order to keep pace with the improvements in other branches of industry which surround them, must diligently study to inform themselves, and practice the most economical mode of increasing its productiveness, and to adopt many other means of cultivation, both in use of implements of husbandry and manner of tillage, as more modern improvements have been found to be useful, and which are daily being placed before the public by agricultural papers. This is an important hinge on which our future prospects are to turn, either in prosperity or adversity, as we may make up our mind, in prosecuting the great work before us, success will crown our efforts, if the well directed industry of the husbandman is properly observed, but if neglected and permitted to become a secondary object, adversity will surely overtake us, and thus by our own act of folly we shall be compelled to fall back to that subordinate station heretofore assigned to the agricultural portion of community, because of their unwillingness to deviate from traditional rules long since exploded. Innovation is, however, making havoc with their old ideas, and dad's say so, is no authority unless founded on reason.

A proper knowledge of the elements of fertility, and their application to the soil, is of the highest importance in all agricultural pursuits. It is visionary to trust to providence for every thing, and in self for nothing, and when we fail to produce good crops to impute it to bad luck, bad seasons, worn out soil, or something else equally foreign to the true cause. The fact is, we must love our profession more, and think more on what we are about, or we can never succeed.

There was more truth than fiction in the remarks of the Hon. Henry Clay, when illustrating the difference between the manufacturing and agricultural communities in this country. The former, said he, no sooner think of an improvement, than they apply themselves to bring it into practical use, while the latter may see and know of improvements around them yet are contented to hitch the plough to the tail of their cattle, and

plod along, believing it to be the best way because their fathers done so before them.

Preparing the soil for a crop of wheat, is the first step of the farmer, which includes manuring, ploughing and cultivating. Manuring should always be kept in view, and practiced when it is possible to do so. Various are the modes of increasing fertility; the use of plaster and clover is highly recommended for this purpose; perhaps there is none better; those who have tried this way of manuring longest, like it best. Sixty pounds of plaster sowed to the acre in the spring, is sufficient, the earlier the better. The clover may be depastured by sheep, or ploughed under for wheat in the latter part of June. This time is mentioned in order to apportion the labors of the husbandman, also to give the clover that is ploughed under time to decompose, thus avoiding a fruitful source of rust.

Grounds sowed to wheat once in three years, with a clover ley intervening, the clover sowed in the month of April on wheat, and dragged over with a light drag, is thought to benefit the wheat; it also insures the growth of clover, which in the present case, is intended for sheep. Here then we have a rotation of crops, consisting of wheat, clover, sheep, and wool, which is an economical and profitable way of conducting the farm in Michigan. This system has the tendency of fertilizing the land, at the same time producing articles that always command cash. It requires less labor to grow one hundred dollars' worth of wool, when once established in the business of sheep husbandry, than it does to grow wheat to the same amount. Wheat growing and wool growing are, in a measure, identified. Lands which are suitable for the former, are suitable for the latter; henceforward they will go hand in hand.

The practice of growing clover and plowing it under to increase fertility, is by many considered for preferable to depasturing by sheep. Tenacious clay soil would doubtless be more benefited by this process of manuring, being made more favorable to atmospheric influence, the deep rooting of wheat, and likewise serving as a drain to allow the surplus water to escape below; but in the foregoing practice we loose the feed when it is most required, which cuts short our system of rotation, and lessens the profits.

Clover and wheat grown with reference to each other alone, cannot be considered advantageous, unless the above is turned to other account than a fertilizer; it would be too expensive, hence the importance of sheep husbandry in forming the chain of rotation. Clover is converted into manure by sheep, and evenly dropped over the field, which is more nearly assimilated to the wants of the wheat plant, than any other within reach of the farmer.

We however sustain loss, by a portion of the fertilizing gasses escaping by way of the atmosphere; we also sustain loss in converting clover

into food for wheat by any other process, and it may not be amiss here to remark, that it is an "ill wind that blows no man good." It may be inferred from this, that our land imbibes as much from the atmosphere as it loses, and why should it not, it being considered by all chemists a source of fertility, therefore if our soil is in condition to arrest or fix these fertilizing gasses, we lose nothing in the end. Every farmer may calculate on receiving benefit from this source, directly in proportion to the organic substances contained in his soil, because they have no affinity for a barren waste; hence the importance of manuring, and the application of plaster. No farmer should pause here.

It is a mistaken idea to think we can remove from the field some twenty-five bushels of wheat per acre, once in three years, and a proportionate quantity of straw, besides the sale of twelve pounds of wool, and one sheep in the time, which have been grown on the same ground, without returning directly to the soil some of the elements composing these articles. Experience has taught us, that fertile land becomes a barren waste by constant cropping, yet how few profit by the bad example and do better.

The fine-spun ash theory of Liebig makes the task of restoring the soil to its primitive fertility quite easy, but unfortunately when put to the test it is found wanting in the essential requisites necessary to accomplish this great object. One thing is certain, the manure heap is indispensable, its use and application is plain to all who will take the pains to look at a field that is manured, and one that is not; there is no secret about the matter, it is too plain to be misunderstood, yet the owner of the manured field is only called the lucky farmer.


Wheat straw returned to the land, about double the quantity that grew upon it, and plowed under to decompose, answers a good purpose as a fertilizer; its effects are similar to clover, though less fertilizing, and slower in decomposing. When spread evenly over the surface, and burned, it benefits the first crop more than when plowed under; each system has its advocates. In the burning process, much depends on the manner in which it is performed, if the surface of the straw be dry, and that next to the earth moist, we then get an important burn; in this case a part is converted into ash, a part into charcoal, and part remains in its natural state to decompose all of which is easily plowed under. The writer was induced to try this latter practice, having a large quantity of straw to plow under, and scant help to rake it into the furrows. The night previous to the burning, it rained, and the afternoon following the surface of the straw appeared dry, there was a moderate wind, it was set on fire, and resulted in an imperfect burn, the land was plowed soon after, (summer fallowed,) and sown to wheat. There was a marked difference between the wheat which grew on that portion

where the straw was burned, and that which was plowed under, the former being much the best; the Hessian fly harmed it less, and it ripened soonest; soil tillage &c. in all other respects were alike. This is not, however, conclusive evidence that the burning process is the best way; it is evident, that the straw which was plowed under, had not decomposed, and the cross plowing again brought it to the surface, where it did not belong. Had it been allowed to remain, and the surface cultivated, results far more favorable might have been anticipated. On stiff clay soil, straw should be plowed under; it renders it permeable to the action of atmospheric influence, and prevents the wheat and clover from heaving out by the frosts of winter and spring. By this process, tenacious clay soils can be made mellow, and comparatively easy to work.

Swamp muck, or peat, is a good fertilizer, if properly managed. It should be taken from its bed and exposed to the action of the atmosphere until its acidity is entirely dissipated; this requires time, then apply it to the land, twenty-five loads to the acre. Many have discarded its use, because the first crops did not show signs of benefit. It was doubtless applied to the land direct from its beds—where it is but partially decomposed, in consequence of being entirely saturated with water the year through.

Wood ashes, charcoal, lime, and bone dust, are strong fertilizers, and benefit wheat whenever properly applied; but after all, in connection with clovering, the barn yard is the only safe and reliable source of fertility. We may devise a thousand modes of inducing fertility, but they are only incidental, and may be considered a left handed process, when compared to this.*—Here then is laid before us a principle in successful cultivation; those who wish can pursue it.

* A word of explanation seems necessary here. The barn yard is to be looked to as a source of fertility, not because vegetables acquire any enriching quality by being eaten, and voided as excrements, but on account of the amount of manure which may thus be accumulated, with good management, in the run of a year. And if the application of it to the soil, produces a more marked growth of the crop, than green manure turned under, it is only because the land gets back two or three times as much manure, as the crop taken from it would make, some other unmanured portion of the farm being robbed to make it up, whereas, in turning under a green crop, the land only gets what grew upon it.—Ed.

 In consequence of a fire in a store adjoining our office, new subscribers will find some of their back No's badly stained with smoke.

For the Michigan Farmer.

RUST ON WHEAT.

Mr. Editor:

Since you have given a general invitation to one and all, to contribute their mite, I will venture to ask a few questions concerning rust on wheat, and give my own opinion on the subject. In the first place, if rust is a parasitic plant, or fungus, that grows out of the earth, or atmosphere, or is produced from both, and feeds on vegetable matter, why does it attack a field of wheat in the following manner, viz. in small sections, a spot here and another there, leaving the straw in its immediate vicinity untouched. If it is a floating substance, that floats about in the air and feeds upon the plants that it comes in contact with, it certainly would not pitch down in spots upon a field of wheat, of a few feet in circumference, and leave the rest of the field untouched. For instance, on heavy timbered land, wheat is often rusted in just such spots as I have described. Wherever the log heaps were burned, there the wheat grows more rapidly than it does elsewhere, and, as a general thing, the straw is more or less rusted, while that immediately adjoining those spots is perfectly bright, the berry plump and good, while on the rusted spots, the wheat is nominally good for nothing. In all soils, where there is a surplus of vegetable mould, there is almost, in every instance, a deficiency of lime, sand, potash, &c., which are very essential elements of the wheat plant. Now, I will venture to give my opinion upon the subject. It has been asserted that rust was never seen except in connection with honey dew, from which I am candidly constrained to dissent. I venture to say, that rust is seldom, if ever, seen, except in connection with hot, showery, sultry weather, such being exactly the kind to produce rust in all such land as I have described. Where there is an excess of vegetable mould, the straw will shoot forth very rapidly in hot showery weather, and there being a lack of mineral substances, to give the straw a sufficient coating of glaze, to prevent checking, by being exposed to the burning rays of the sun, the straw puts forth very rapidly, is expanded to its fullest extent, is very tender, and when exposed to the burning heat of the sun, it must shrink as rapidly as it expanded;—the outside drying faster than the inside, it must necessarily check the outside, and what is the result? In my estimation, it is this: that juice or sap, oozes out and dries on to the straw, forming what is called rust. Now mark, it has been asserted in a former number of the Farmer, by one of your worthy correspondents, that rust was never found under the husk, and I venture to say that the very thing that prevents it from rusting is that very husk, that prevents the heat of the burning sun from coming immediately in contact with it; for on the outside of the husk that shields the stalk, you will find plenty of rust. I think the grounds that your worthy

correspondent has taken, so far as it regards rust never being found under the husk, are exactly in keeping with my theory, and fully corroborate the grounds that I have taken. W.

Van Buren, Lagrange Co., Ind., April 15, '51.

For the Michigan Farmer.

SUCKERS ON CORN.

ASH, Monroe Co., April 2d, 1851.

Mr. Isham:

Sir: I wish to enquire if suckers on corn ought not to be pulled off, at the second hoeing. I have read in our paper, and others, about raising large crops of corn, the manner of cultivating it and getting from sixty to eighty bushels per acre, (shelled, I take it,) but they say nothing about the suckers. I last spring furrowed one acre of ground, by going twice in the same place and filling with manure, fresh from the yard, and immediately covering it by throwing two furrows together on the manure, forming a ridge. At planting time I plowed two more furrows to the ridge, one each side, and dragged them thoroughly lengthwise, the ridges being about six feet apart from centre to centre. I planted the corn (the dark yellow flint) about 18 to 20 inches apart, on the centre of the ridge, three kernels in a hill, calculating about the same number of hills to the acre as if planted three feet apart each way. When the corn came up I finished plowing between the ridges, and plowed and hoed my corn twice. It grew nobly when the roots got down in the manure. The drouth did not seem to affect it, the leaves never rolled. I examined the manure towards the latter part of the drouth, and found it quite moist. In July, I thought I would get the premium, for I saw no corn as good as mine; but in August I began to fear it would be too much of a swamp to yield well. When I cut it up I had from six to nine, and I believe some twelve stalks in a hill, and a great many of them barren. When I husked it, behold, instead of eighty bushels of corn, I had seventy-five bushels of ears, all told.

Now, what more could I have done than what I did, to have made it produce, not eighty, but say sixty bushels of corn. A part of the ground is sandy and part clay loam; the highest ground (sand) produced the most suckers. Had I used plaster or ashes on the corn when it came up, as I intended, but neglected for the want of time, would I not have had a few more suckers and a little less corn? A. C.

For the Michigan Farmer.

YELLOW TURNIPS.

Mr. Isham:

Do you know whether the yellow field turnip is cultivated by farmers generally or not? I obtained some seed 2 years ago, that was brought from Nauvoo by a Mormon, and have raised two crops and find them to be equal to the

rutabaga for feeding to stock. They are as solid as the baga, and do not get spongy in the spring like the white turnip. They are sweeter, and consequently better for the table than the white turnip, and will cook equally as soon, and they are as good now as in the fall. I raise them on black sandy land, and sow the seed broadcast about the 25th July. I have set a quantity for seed. Would it be an object to bring up some seed to Detroit in time for the next crop?*

* We should think so. Please bring some here for gratuitous distribution. C. B.

MEDITERRANEAN WHEAT.

Mr. Editor:—This valuable variety of wheat is but very little known in New England, but when it is better understood, I believe but little else will be sown by us. The middle States for many years past have proved its intrinsic worth in seasons of fly and rust, and blight of every kind, out of all which it has come unscathed. I have known many instances where the general wheat crop has been prostrated by storms at or soon after blossoming, and amidst the destruction incident to such a state of things, the Mediterranean wheat has ripened and come to hand bright and full, while every other description had proved a total failure, not even worth harvesting.

In the Journal of the New York State Agricultural Society, mention is made of an experiment with guano upon a crop of wheat, which yielded 30 bushels to the acre, the quantity of guano being 400 lbs to the acre; the crop being obtained in this way at one third the usual expenditure for street dirt from New York. The variety sown was the Mediterranean, and the weight was sixty-one pounds to the bushel. Our friends must be reminded, that as this kind of wheat does not tiller in the Spring like others, it will be best to sow not less than two bushels to the acre. The ears are short, and so may be the straw, causing the crop to appear anything but inviting, but when it is brought to the bushel, everything speaks in its recommendation. It also bears late, as well as early sowing, better than any other, while an instance is just brought to my knowledge, that speaks volumes in its favor. A friend writes as follows from Delaware:

"I sold my wheat, the Mediterranean—I never sow any other—to one miller by sample, for a price per bushel to weigh 60 pounds. On delivery, it was found to be so fine a sample—and heavier than all others—that on settling with me, he of himself, paid me three cents per bushel more than the price agreed for; and this upon a thousand bushels sold from 40 acres of land, reserving the screenings for home consumption, constituted a free gift of just thirty dollars. So much for the assertion that the millers do not like Mediterranean wheat, and will not give within many cents per bushel of the market price."

I have not the least fear but that this variety of

wheat will continue to be sown among us with success for many years to come. V.R.
—*Boston Cultivator.*

For the Michigan Farmer.

NOXIOUS WEEDS, &c., AGAIN.

Mr. Isham:

On the 44th page of the Farmer for February, is a communication from me, on the origin of noxious weeds and grasses, suggesting the idea that the Creator of all things has so constituted the natural laws in regard to that kind or part of vegetation, which grows as a curse for man's disobedience to the Divine command, that the soil, when cultivated, spontaneously produces those noxious weeds and grasses.

On the 124 page of the April Farmer, I had an answer from R. Randall, Jr., in which, without making any objection to my theory, he starts another, viz: that this country has been peopled and cultivated by a race of men before the North American Indians, and those seeds have laid in the ground since that time. Without stopping to argue the question how long seeds will retain their vitality, I would ask where did those seeds come from when those people cultivated the ground?

It is supposed by some that Michigan was once a vast Lake. If so, and there was a people anterior to the Indians, and they cultivated land which for innumerable ages had been covered with water, the question returns with redoubled force, where did the barn grass, pigeon grass, pursley, pigweed seed, &c., come from?

Again, if Michigan was once a Lake, has it been dry land long enough for these aborigines to live and become extinct, and all traces of them to become annihilated, for I am not aware that any traces of inhabitants are discovered before the race of Indians not yet quite extinct.

PLOW JOGGER.

Remark.—We are under the necessity of arresting this controversy at its present stage, which is probably as near a satisfactory conclusion as it would be if suffered to run on for months.

One of the special injunctions of the Editor on leaving, was, that no subtle controversies, tending to no practically useful results, should be allowed. C. B.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Friend Isham:

I see in the April number of the Michigan Farmer, page 104, that brother Yankee wants to know what is the best remedy for swollen udders of cows. Being some little acquainted with dairying, and having tried a variety of medicines, I would recommend only two.

1st. Take a pail or pan of moderately warm water, put in it a little common salt, a little salt -

petre and warm ashes enough to make a lye, and then hold it so that the cow's udder will be in the lye, and wash for several minutes, and from three to five times a day until cured, which will be soon. Keep the cow in a warm, dry place at nights and in cold weather.

2nd. Take ox balm or horse weed root, two handfuls, half a handful of garden camomile, and one handful of bitter-sweet bark, and boil altogether. Then melt hogs lard, and turn into cold water a sufficient quantity for an ointment; put the lard with the water after taking out the roots and herbs, and simmer until the water is all out; and you have a good ointment for cracked teats, swollen udders, or any sore on cattle or horses.

A. H. LUTINE.

For the Michigan Farmer.

"GIVE US LIGHT."

We desire to make a number of inquiries thro' your paper and can assure you that your correspondents in Michigan will do a host of your readers in this State a very great favor, by furnishing the information sought:

1st. Will the Michigan sod and subsoil plow scour or clean itself in an adhesive prairie soil; where can we get them, and the price?

2nd. Have any of your large wet prairies been successfully seeded down to the domesticated grasses? and if so, please give us the mode.

3d. Is there a broadcast sowing machine made or used in Michigan? and if so, let us know how it operates, whose invention it is, where we can get it and the price?

4th. A correspondent speaks in one of your late numbers of having a windmill rigged to pump water for his stock, (a thing much needed on the prairies). Will he not be so kind as to give us such a description as will enable us to build them?

Insert this and oblige,

MANY SUBSCRIBERS.

Laporte Co., Ind., April 12, 1851.

For the Michigan Farmer.

PROPER TIME FOR CUTTING TIMBER.

SPRINGPORT, March 3d, 1851.

Mr. Isham:

I have noticed several articles in the Michigan, and one in the Genesee Farmer, on the subject of the best time to cut timber.

My father's time for cutting Basswood rail timber, was in the old of the moon, in February, and I have practised the same myself. Timber cut at that time, and left in the log, until timber that is standing will peel, will then also peel readily, and I think rails made and peeled at this time, will last as long as any other rail.

I once cut a lot of Whitewood trees into saw-logs, in February, left them on the ground during the next summer, and drew them to mill the ensuing winter, and the following July, I peeled

them. They had sent forth sprouts, and were nearly as green, and peeled as readily as they could have done, had they been cut at that time.

I also cut some Black walnut logs, and drew them out into the road, where they they were exposed to the heat of the sun, and where they laid for two years, and grew some sprouts that continued to grow until I had the logs sawed into lumber.

Yours, &c.,

A. F. GAYLORD.

AGRICULTURAL GEOLOGY—NO. 5.

BY JOSIAH HOLBROOK.

Mica is a compound of oxides, more compounded than either quartz or feldspar. It contains all the oxides entering into both these minerals, with the addition of manganese, much used for bleaching salts, (chloride of lime) Mica also contains traces of silicate of magnesia—the article used in the manufacture of salts and other chemicals. This silicate, as its name denotes, contains silicic acid, or the oxide of silicium. It has been found, by the progress of geology, in large quantities, both in Pennsylvania and Maryland.—From it have been made various chemicals, and among them, epsom salts, (sulphate of magnesia,) at so cheap a rate, in such quantities, and so good a quality, as entirely to supersede the importation of this article, so extensively used for medicinal purposes. In connection with this silicate and other magnesian minerals, chrome ore, (chromate of iron,) has been found, and chrome yellow, (chromate of lead) made from it, with such success as to reduce the price of that valuable paint from fifteen dollars to twenty-five cents per pound; thus bringing the benefits of geology and chemistry to every individual in the country—at least to every man and woman who rides in a carriage with yellow paint, and to every child who uses an atlas with colored maps.

Mica is not an important element in soils, and in rocks is less abundant than either quartz or feldspar. Though not abundant in rocks, it is one of the three materials of granite, and has an important influence in modifying the character of rocks in fitting them for both agricultural and architectural purposes. It gives to gneiss and mica slate in the granite formations, a facility of being formed into slabs of greatly extended surface, fitting them for sidewalks, bridges, floors, farm enclosures, and numerous other purposes. These two abundant rocks in granite formations, can be readily formed into slabs of an extended and smooth surface, by the use of the hammer, chisel and wedge; while most rocks not containing mica require the drill in addition to the other instruments named.

Good specimens of mica slate may be seen in the walks from the National Capitol leading to Pennsylvania and Maryland Avenues. It is obtained from Bolton, Connecticut, twelve miles east of Hartford. Gneiss is the common material

used for sidewalks in Washington, as it is for the basements of all the public buildings now in progress at the national metropolis. It is obtained from the Potomac from five to eight miles above Washington. In this exhaustless and valuable deposit are interspersed extensively, very brilliant cubical crystals of the sulphuret—not sulphate—of iron, known among miners as *fool's gold*, a striking illustration of the old adage: "All is not gold that glitters."

Experiment. Any person drawing a piece of feldspar across some quartz, and then the quartz across the feldspar, may ascertain which scratches the other, and of course the comparative hardness of these two essential elements of soils, the oldest friends and the strongest "unionists" upon the globe.

Lime formations are more *ates* than *ides*. Carbonates are most abundant, various and useful, frequently very beautiful. Common limestone, of different textures and colors, most, perhaps all the marbles, calk and crystals of various forms and hues, are the carbonates of lime; about forty-four parts of carbonic acid, and fifty-six parts of quick-lime—oxides of calcium.

Next to the carbonates of lime sulphates are most abundant and useful. Common gypsum, a powerful manure, alabaster, much used for ornaments under a beautiful polish; crystals of considerable variety and beauty, are the sulphates of lime.

Fluate of lime is another calcareous formation. It is known as fluor spar, also Derbyshire spar. It receives a fine polish when it is used for ornamental purposes. From the fluat of lime, fluorine acid is obtained, which has the power of acting on glass. By covering any piece of glass with a thin coating of wax, then cutting through the wax letters or any figures, and exposing the glass to the action of fluorine acid, etching is produced on the glass. The fluorine acid is set free from the lime by charging it with sulphuric acid.

Nitrate of lime, though not common, is found in some considerable deposits. It has been supposed that it would furnish a good material for producing the oxygen gas for the calcium light. Bones are the phosphate of lime. Chloride of lime is a manufactured article, formed by exposing lime to chlorine. It was first manufactured some forty years since, and is now a most important article in the manufacture of cotton fabrics. It has great bleaching powers.

Every child knows that lime formations, especially carbonates and sulphates, are essential for the purposes of agriculture and architecture.—They are essential to the greatest fertility of soils.

By a proper mixture of quartz and feldspar, or sand, clay and lime, a soil becomes permanently fertile. The three may be considered the essential elements of soils, though sand and clay, without the presence of lime, produce vegetation. Both the sulphate and phosphate of lime proba-

bly aid more as temporary stimulants of vegetation than as essential ingredients in soils.

By taking a review of the *ides* and *ates* already presented, as forming the elements of mountains, rocks and soils, no one can will fail of being struck with the simplicity and practical utility of geology and chemistry, as at the very foundation of the most practical knowledge, of course peculiarly fitted for the very "first lessons" both in schools and families.

Experiments. By applying the thumb nail and the point of a knife to the different lime formations, especially the carbonates and sulphates, it may be found which give to the former, and whether all yield to the latter. Their hardness compared with each other, with feldspar, quartz, and other minerals, may thus be ascertained.

For the Michigan Farmer.

HOW TO LOSE MONEY.

Mr. Isham :

When a boy, I was once bragging about a certain horse, how he could run, &c., when my companion, a young man, said, "Pho ! he can run just fast enough to lose money." The saying made a deep impression on my mind then, and I have often thought of it since. Now, it costs nearly as much to put in a crop of wheat poorly, and out of season, as it does to put it in well and in season, and in the first case we most always lose money. Corn ground may be well plowed, and the corn well planted, and if not well hoed and harvested, we lose money. Corn fodder may be cut in season, and left standing in the field till it is spoiled, and then we lose money. We may raise a good crop of potatoes, and neglect to dig them in season until they are frozen, water soaked, or rotten, and we lose money. Instead of cutting our hay at the right time, we may let it get ripe and dry, and then leave it out to dew and rain, till it is good for nothing, and lose money by the operation. If we have more stock than we can keep well, and after having got them nearly wintered through, they die, we lose all our fodder, trouble and stock, and of course we lose money. If we plant and tend a garden till midsummer, and then give it up to the weeds, we lose money. If we dig up our noxious weeds a few times, and do not persevere until they are all dead, they will grow again, and we lose all we have done.

R. COBB.

CHEAP WASH FOR COTTAGES OF WOOD.—

For the outside of wooden cottages, barns, out-buildings, fences, &c., where economy is important, the following wash is recommended:

Take a clean barrel that will hold water. Put in half a bushel of fresh quicklime, and slake it by pouring over it boiling water sufficient to cover it 4 or 5 inches deep, and stirring it until it is slaked.

When quite slaked, dissolve in water and add two pounds of sulphate of zinc, (white vitriol,)

which may be had at any of the druggists, and which, in a few weeks, will cause the whitewash to harden on the wood-work. Add sufficient water to bring it to the consistence of thick whitewash. This wash is of course white, and as white is a color which we think should never be used except upon buildings a good deal surrounded by trees, so as to prevent its glare, we would make it a fawn or a drab color before using.

To make the above wash a pleasing cream color, add 4 pounds yellow ochre.

For a fawn color take 4 lbs. umber, 1 lb. Indian red, and $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. of lampblack.*

To make the wash gray or stone color, add 1 lb raw umber and 2 lbs. lampblack.

The color may be put on with a common white wash brush, and will be found to be much more durable than a common whitewash, as the sulphate of zinc sets or hardens the wash.—*Architecture of Country Houses," by Downing.*

* Lampblack, when mixed with water colors, should first be thoroughly dissolved in alcohol.—Yellow ochre, Indian red, &c., are sold in dry powders, at a few cents per pound.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE STATE FAIR.

To the Superintendent and Directors of the Michigan Southern Railroad:

Gentlemen:—At the last annual meeting of the Michigan State Agricultural Society, held at Ann Arbor on the 27th day of September, 1850, the undersigned were appointed a committee "To wait upon the Superintendent and Directors of the Southern Railroad in this State, and procure, if possible, the free transportation over their Road, of Stock and other articles intended for exhibition at the Fair of said Society, also the transportation of passengers at one-half the usual charge, beginning two days previous and continuing two days after the close of the fair."

In discharging the duty assigned us, we take pleasure in acknowledging the liberality that has been shown by the Railroad companies of this State on all occasions of public interest, and especially in all things pertaining to agricultural improvements. We are fully aware, however, that a full development of our agricultural resources cannot be had without the encouragement and stimulus of a well attended State Agricultural Society. And we are quite sure that the masses cannot attend and pay full or any other freight upon their articles or property intended for exhibition.

It is unnecessary for us to call to mind and repeat the advantages to Railroads, of an improved and greatly enlarged agricultural surplus, that must necessarily find its way over such roads to market, or to allude to the fact that what brings wealth to the people, alike enriches the Railroads passing near them, for all can perceive that such are the inevitable results. But we do ask, that as the State is lending its aid in money, you will

do the same by transporting passengers and freight to and from the annual State Fairs upon the terms specified in the resolution above quoted.

May we further ask an early reply to this communication, in order that any arrangement thus made, may be published and become generally known. And further that the arrangement may be regarded a permanent one.

Be pleased to address a reply to J. Goodwin, Chairman of said committee, at Jackson, Michigan, or to J. C. Holmes, Corresponding Secretary of said Society, and a member of the committee at Detroit.

We have the honor to be

Your obedient servants,

J. GOODWIN, } Com. of
C. G. HAMMOND, } State Agri'l
J. C. HOLMES, } Society.

REPLY.

J. C. Holmes, Esq., *Secretary:*

Dear Sir:—I herewith have the pleasure of handing you a copy of a resolution adopted at the last meeting of the Board of Directors of the Michigan Southern Railroad Company, which you will please make known to the committee of the Agricultural Society.

I am, respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

CHARLES NOBLE.

At a meeting of the Directors of the Southern Railroad Company, holden at the Michigan Exchange, in the city of Detroit, April 3, 1851, the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That all beasts and other property designed for exhibition at the Fair of the State Agricultural Society at Detroit, the next autumn, be transported both ways over the road, at the risk of the owner, with the necessary attendants for beasts, free of charge; and that passengers destined for such Fair, be carried for half the ordinary rates, each way, during the Fair, and for two days preceding, and two days succeeding the days of holding the same.

(Copy.)

Attest,

CHARLES NOBLE,
Secretary.

Our friends from Southern Michigan will thus be enabled to attend the Fair this year at a trifling cost, and they will no doubt appreciate these liberal arrangements, and make timely preparations to attend.

C. B.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Mr. Editor:

In the last number, a correspondent asks, what is good for a caked udder of a cow? One thing is, to take blue clay and put it on the bag in the form of thick paste, let it be on till dry or nearly so, then on with another, and so on till cured or out of danger. Another way with which I have always succeeded, is, by bathing with cold water, and rubbing it with the hand or end

of the finger till the bag is soft. Commence upon the bag and rub down, and stick to it till you do something; twice a day generally will do it. Do this for a day or two, or as long as needed. Try it; it is cheap and good.

For the Michigan Farmer.

HEDGES.

Mr. Isham:

Several of the correspondents of the Farmer, of late, have taken up the subject of fencing, one approving, and another disapproving, of hedge fences. I am not prepared to approve or disapprove, but I dislike the idea of being misquoted, or misrepresented.

In the February No. of the present vol., "J. S. C." makes me, (or the Mich. Farmer, of Sept. 15th, 1849, makes me,) to say, that "In England, hedges are five or six feet wide, at the base, and taking into account the amount of land they exhaust on either side, the whole space cannot be less than twelve or fourteen feet; and not more than half of them are well trimmed."

I made no such assertion; but merely stated it as it appeared in the Detroit Free Press, copied from another paper. I thought then, and think still, the statement was incorrect, it being so different from the form and manner, of tending hedge fences in Scotland, where I saw thousands of farms subdivided into fields, generally surrounded by a ditch, with a Hawthorn hedge on the ditch bank. And that too, in a section of country, where stone, suitable for fences could be had at the quarry, at 4d stg., about 7½ cents, per cart load; one horse being capable of hauling one, to one and a half tons gross.

I am told, the European Hawthorn does not thrive in this country, consequently it might not answer. I also admit that a hedge fence requires to be protected for several years, by another fence. But I disagree with "J. S. C.," p. 93, in saying, that "in this country, it would be unnecessary and improper" to plant a hedge on a ditch bank. I admit, that where land is sufficiently dry for an orchard, or a wheat crop, without ditches, or waterfurrows, that a hedge might thrive. — Yet were I to plant a hedge on such soils, I would at least, plow a ridge about four feet wide, to give it a slight elevation. But where land requires ditching, the ditch ought to be the boundary of the field if practicable, and where then, would it be necessary and proper to plant the hedge, if not on the ditch bank?

I agree that hedges are the "most ornamental of all fences," and if J. S. C. can find material that will make a durable and cheap hedge fence, I shall be glad.

If my fields were enclosed with a live hedge, thrifty, substantial, and as easily tended as hedges that I have seen, I would consider each ten acre field so enclosed, worth \$20 more than if it were enclosed with the best zigzag, post and rail, or post and board fence I ever saw.

J. S. C. gives a glowing description of the great amount of fencing material in Michigan, and the extreme scarcity of timber in England, in consequence of which, he says, "The floors of the rich are made of stone, and the floors of the poor are made of clay, as also are the halls and roofs."

As regards the dwellings of the rich, the floor of the kitchen, larder, servant's hall, &c., in the basement story, is generally made of polished flag stone, yet it never entered into my mind, that the scarcity of timber was the cause.

I will hazard an opinion that stone floors in fine buildings, cost treble the amount of board floors, and that stable floors in England cost more than if they were made of plank. The people have a way of doing work substantial, from a yard of Broadcloth to a Stone Bridge.

As you are about to visit Britain, if you can find a stone floor in the dining room, bedroom, parlor, &c., of a Nobleman, or a clay roof, (unless roof tiles are considered clay,) on the cottage of a poor man, I will double my subscription for this year, when the announcement is made in your "Notes by the Way."

Yours, &c., JAMES DAWSON.

Nankin, Wayne Co., Michigan.

For the Michigan Farmer.

DISEASES OF HORSES.

In your last number, a correspondent, whose signature is B. A. F., asks for information respecting the management of horses. On that subject I do not profess to be skilled, but such as I have I am willing to give. The horse has been a favorite animal with me, from a child, and I never knew one, that was properly fed and taken care of, and reasonably treated, though worked daily, to be sick, or have the belly ache, except he takes the horse distemper, or glanders, from another horse; these, I think, can be prevented, by keeping tar and assafetida on the bits of the bridle, when exposed to them. The belly-ache disease, in the kidneys or the lungs or chest, I think, is generally brought on by wrong treatment.

Many a valuable horse has been ruined by standing tied, exposed to the cold and storm after laboring, while those he has obediently drawn or carried to the place where he must stand, are enjoying themselves in a comfortable house, by a good fire, till it is their pleasure to have him convey them back, and perhaps be severely lashed, to make him go faster than is reasonable. This, with improper feeding, is the way to make belly aches, heaves, kidney complaints, &c. After such treatment, the horse being feverish by reason of cold he has taken, botts, or worms, are often ready to commence their dreadful warfare on the entrails, and if not immediately prevented, will soon kill him.

From trying the experiment several times, I am fully convinced, that by giving a horse two

quarts of peas each day, four days, you will rid him of the worms; cooked peas have the same effect on the human species. As respects botts, I have heard of many certain remedies for destroying them, but have never found but one that appeared to disturb a bott at all, when taken out of the horse. I had a mare die of botts. I opened her soon, in the presence of several witnesses, and applied twelve different medicines, each of which were said to be certain cures for botts, such as blue vitrol, spirits turpentine, lime, tobacco, sage, &c.; but none of them appeared to disturb the botts. I then applied pulverized saltpetre—that set them a broiling almost as soon as it touched them, as though they had been on a hot griddle.

*The Old Man
that has passed 72 New-Years' days.*

Educational Department.

For the Michigan Farmer.

TOWNSHIP LIBRARIES

FOR THE BENEFIT OF FARMERS.

One of the greatest improvements of the present day, is the establishment of free libraries in every township. For the growth and culture of the mind, books are quite as necessary as food is for the body.

But books are expensive articles; it requires the investment of a large sum to form a library; the great proportion of volumes are useless to their owner when once read, and hence few persons feel inclined to purchase any except such as are absolutely necessary to their business. The consequence, in former days, was that ignorance very generally prevailed upon all higher branches of knowledge or severe science; and persons living in the country, separated from neighbors, ended their lives very much in the same situation as they began them, in regard to sound information.

Now-a-days no one can have such an excuse, for the books are purchased for them. But the human mind *must* have something to do—must have something to interest and excite it when the daily labor is over, and of a nature different from labor. Unless this is provided, as a very necessity, the body will predominate over the mind, the evil passions over the good. And as a consequence of the want of some harmless and interesting amusement, such as books provide, we have long attributed the amount of intemperance, scandal, quarrels, going to law, interference with the affairs of one's neighbors, and the all-pervading love of money, which are so frequent in small or isolated communities, and which exist exactly in proportion to the deficiency of general mental culture among the people.

Unless the mind is agreeably occupied with what is good and exalting, it *will* sink into what is carnal and debasing. Now, printed matter is of two kinds. It may be either a direct poison,

as works of a lascivious or infidel nature, or a slow, stimulating poison, like opium, as are too many of the fashionable novels and novelette newspapers of the day; or it will be food—good, wholesome, strengthening food—as are the higher classes of books, and such as constitute the several libraries published by the Harpers and others, for the express use of townships, and a large proportion of our newspapers and magazines.

All reading is not good. There never was a human institution which might not be perverted to evil, as well as become a benefit; and it is a subject of the greatest importance, now that thousands of volumes are annually placed in the hands of our children and their parents, that they should be of the best and most useful description. Upon the nature of the popular reading, almost entirely depends the popular character. Our school law directs that the School Inspectors should choose the books; and they neglect their duty, if they leave this to any one else. But it is feared that this selecting is often done in a careless manner; and books are bought, not only without consideration, but with an entire ignorance of their contents and quality. Considering the results of reading, there is not, perhaps, a greater or more awful responsibility resting on any citizen, than rests upon the School Inspectors in this particular. If they allow even one book of an evil tendency, or of false principles, to acquire general circulation in a township, there is no knowing where the mischief may end; even in coming generations.

Yet a judicious selection of books is no easy matter. In the first place, it is necessary to have read them, or to be acquainted with the name and standing of the author; in the second place, the mind of the judge must be prepared, by literary pursuits, to form a judgment; and thirdly, some discrimination is necessary in deciding upon what is good for an individual, and what is proper for general circulation. It cannot be expected that all, or a majority of those who are elected School Inspectors in our country townships, possess these qualifications. How, then, is the evil to be obviated? We should say that the Inspectors should consult the best educated persons in the town—the lawyers, the physicians, the ministers—and get them to give a list of what is good. They will not be likely to recommend injurious works. Or, let them purchase those books which are printed for the express purpose. Already, three very extensive series of valuable works have been published for this use, and great judgment has been shown in their preparation, while they are constantly added to. One of them is from the press of the Harpers, New York; one by T. H. Webb & Co., of Boston; and one by A. V. Blake, New York. There may be others with which we are not acquainted; but, on any of these, every dependence may be placed.

Again we say, buy directly from an establish-

ed and respectable bookseller. Eschew pedlars. The latter will generally charge much more, as a necessity of travelling, and their books will frequently be cheap only as regards their contents. But never buy unless you have a list already judiciously made out. Where no bookseller is at hand, get one of the merchants visiting the East, to purchase the quantity annually, and buying them at first cost, you can get them much cheaper.

But we are writing to farmers. It is for the farming population that these libraries are especially intended; and shall their own professional books be neglected? There is scarcely an individual among them who cannot learn something profitable from books; and "improvement in agricultural science" is now the battle-cry of the day. In many Eastern district schools, direct instruction in the principles of farming has been introduced; and we wish that it were universal in our State.

There is an erroneous impression in the minds of some persons, that these libraries are only intended for children. They are intended for ALL, and are certainly most beneficial to adults. The question is decided in the Appendix to the School Law.

We subjoin a list of agricultural books of a high character, yet cheap, which we should be glad to find in every library. They are published, with the exception of the first, by C. M. Saxton, 121 Fulton street, New York, but may be had of all booksellers; and we add, that we name these works solely from a knowledge of their intrinsic value, and have not only no interest in the matter, but not even an acquaintance with the firm:

The Michigan Farmer, Detroit, \$1 00 a volume.	
The American Agriculturist,	\$1 25
Allen's Farm Book,	1 00
Diseases of Domestic Animals,	75
Cole's American Fruit Book,	50
Darlington's Agricultural Botany,	1 00
Gray's Botanical Text Book,	1 50
Rodgers' Scientific Agriculture,	75
Boussingault's Rural Economy, (<i>very valuable</i>),	1 50
Do. Organic Nature,	50
Buel's Farmer's Instructor, 2 vols.,	1 00
Gaylord & Tucker's American Husbandry,	1 00
Chaptal's Chemistry applied to Agriculture,	50
Liebig's Agricultural Chemistry,	25
Animal do.,	25
Familiar Letters,	25
Topham's Chemistry made easy for the Agriculturist,	38
Johnston's Catechism of Chemistry,	25
Lectures,	1 25
Practical Agriculture,	1 00
Elements, (published by Wiley & Putnam, 1842,)	50
Dana's Muck Manual,	50

Thompson on Food of Animals,	50
Youatt on the Horse,	1 75
Stock Raiser's Manual,	2 50
on the Pig, (<i>a most amusing book</i>),	65
Randall's Sheep Husbandry,	1 00
Morrell's American Shepherd,	1 00
Bevan on the Bee,	38
Stephens' Book of the Farm, 2 vols.,	4 00
Ellsworth's Improvements,	25
Colman's European Agricultural Tour, (<i>the best book of the kind</i>),	5 00
Johnson's Dictionary of Gardening,	2 25
Thaer's Agriculture,	1 75
Downing's Cottage Residences,	2 25
Browne's Memoir on Indian Corn,	25
Pedder's Farmer's Land Measurer,	50
Allen's American Poultry Yard,	2 00
Treatise on Domestic Animals,	75

And we may add, as the most amusing book in existence, and essentially rural, *Wilson's American Ornithology*, without the plates. Our copy is printed by Constable & Co., Edinburgh, 1831, 4 vols., 12mo, and cost \$1 50. It may be imported by any of the large New York booksellers; but we think there is an American edition.

The above works include the best information on the subject, and in most towns, could be purchased in two years. C. F.

Ladies' Department.

For the Michigan Farmer.

COMMENTS—No. I.

Friend Isham:

Sir,—I observe many of your correspondents begin their communications by stating, they have read such and such a number of the Farmer with great interest, another that he has been the reader of your valuable paper for the past year, &c., &c.

Now, I too, will state that I have been a reader of the Michigan Farmer with dates previous to your "illustrious predecessor's, predecessor," with how much interest I dare not tell you. I cannot flatter, nor will I wound the feelings of the editor by finding fault. So much for preface.

In an article in the March No. "*An old man*" says, "I hope the time is not far distant when females will act as though they thought they were intelligent beings." Again, on the same page, "*E. M. T.*" says, "We have frequently heard mothers, surrounded by a family of children, and all their household affairs, pining, and complaining how heavily time passes." Here I involuntarily threw down the paper and exclaimed, what! have I, like Rip Vanwinkle, been sleeping all my life, or for half a century, that such strange things should now astonish my vision?

What! don't females act like intelligent beings? Mothers, with their romping, laughing, cheerful children, around them, pining, and complaining, that time passes heavily? I have supposed that

here, in the middle of the nineteenth century, when the knowledge of the arts and sciences is scattered broad cast over the land; our path-way thickly studded with intellectual gems, and crowded with physical enjoyments; and with our characteristic *go aheaditiveness*, that there was no place, in our wide domain, where any one could be afflicted with *ennui*.

That there may be such in our large cities and villages is quite possible, but surely in the country 'tis not so. Why my dear sir, who is there in all this wide world to whom the volume of nature is spread in such rich variety as to farmers, their sons, wives and daughters. The blue sky is theirs; the rainbow and the clouds that distill the showers for them. They can and do observe the changing seasons, which bring forth their varied treasures at the appointed time, they inhale the soft breezes perfumed by the "Roses of Sharon," the songs of birds, the hum of insects; in short all nature is theirs, and who can possess so rich a treasure without feeling the mental as well as the physical being elevated, made better and more happy.

Nor does nature alone contribute to the happiness and enjoyments of a farmer's home.

Come to Sharon, and the towns adjacent in Washtenaw County, Mr. Isham;* in the course of your peregrinations and take "*Notes by the Way*." We will show you scores of farmer's daughters that act like intelligent beings, that compass the ordeal of any consequential "School Committee" unscathed; who can drum a piano and twist a spinning wheel to a charm; who can keep time to the most difficult strains of Mozart or Handel, as the rich tribute of our Devon cows, falls jingling into the tin milk pail; talk of the arts at the loom, of science at the kneading tray, of chemistry at the wash-tub, of history and natural philosophy while mopping and scrubbing, who cultivate flowers and can call them by name and yet have never seen huge brick walls or stone castles.

A. R.

* We premise that Mr. Isham would respond to this invitation, was he here, but we are not authorized to make any bargain with the fair sex on his account.

C. B.

For the Michigan Farmer.

FLINT, March 20, 1851.

Mr. Isham:

You kindly invite all to write; so, for the first time, I appear as one of your most humble contributors. I am much interested in your valuable paper, and think it will prove a blessing to all within its reach. I see nothing from my sisters upon the subject of music. I know not why it is not as appropriate a subject for the farmer, as any other. Does not, my sisters, the sweet influence of music ever shine around your hearts? And if so why not breathe forth in gentle strains, the hallowed thoughts which it inspires? I had long hoped to see this too much neglected subject

treated of by some far abler pen; but my soul is too full of music to enjoy it alone, or bury it deep in the innermost recesses of my heart. It seems to me that there is nothing more elevating, soul-hallowing, and heart-refining, than music's heavenly influence. It unconsciously brings to the mind, the occupation of the angels, who, with inspired souls and golden harps, make heaven's vast domains ring with their loud and eternal anthems. In a soft summer evening, when wearied with the petty cares of life, what more refreshing, than, with some chosen friend, to sing, accompanied with the sweet tones of the melody—whiling away all vexations which have ruffled the spirit during the day? I would fain incite in all a love for this, my chosen theme.

Dispose of this as you see fit.

Yours, &c.,

MARY B. A.

For the Michigan Farmer.

FASHION.

Mr. Editor:

Being one of the many daughters of Michigan, and feeling a lively interest in anything calculated to improve our physical, moral, and intellectual natures, I have become a reader of your valuable paper, and have watched, with great anxiety, that department allotted to us.—Not that I feared talent was wanting among us to sustain it—no, far from this; but the question arose in my mind, are there those who feel deeply enough for the general welfare of our sex, to devote a portion of their time in occasionally giving to the public their thoughts and experience upon the various subjects that may occur to them?

There ought to be; and I would wish to be among that number who are willing to do a little good, if not capable of doing all they could wish. As, in most periodicals of the day, the "fashions" are a general topic, especially in the ladies department, I have taken the *fashion* of the present day, as a subject upon which to pen a few thoughts—although they may be different from what some would wish:

From time immemorial, fashion has held boundless sway over the various nations of the earth, but never has she been more despotic, or more cruel in her requirements, than at the present time—particularly among the female sex. She seems to bear unlimited sway over the minds of the people, who are listening to her syren tongue, and kneeling at her shrine, with all the ardor of an oriental devotee to his idol.

Nothing seems too sacred to immolate upon the altar of fashion; neither happiness, nor health, nor even life itself, is exempt from the great sacrifice which this inexorable goddess requires from her followers. Some may startle at this assertion, but none can deny its truth.

Take—for an example—the present fashion of the *lady's dress*. Look at the delicate, tapering waist, so beautiful in the eyes of many, and so *fashionable*, withal—do you think the God of na-

ture formed it thus? Do you think the internal organs of that contracted chest are in their natural places, and perform their proper functions? Common sense will tell you, that they are not where the Creator placed them, and consequently are obstructed in their various operations.

But why is it so? why this strange departure from the laws of nature? "O, it is the fashion, and of course must be followed." The fashion!—*only the fashion!* Then why do we follow it?—why *must* it be followed? Are we not well enough acquainted with the structure of the human system, and the laws which govern it, to know and realize the great amount of evil which such an infringement will produce? And (being thus informed,) have we not firmness and independence enough to throw off the shackles of so cruel a tyrant, and abide by the laws of the Creator, who has so wonderfully and fearfully made us? What! will we, who pretend to be rational creatures, be so blinded—so foolishly blinded—as to follow a fashion of dress, the effects of which are to deform our bodies, and sooner or later, bring us to the grave? Heaven forbid.

We often express our surprise at the foolish taste of the Chinese lady, who admires the delicately contracted foot—but let us look at ourselves. While they contract but the extremity of a limb, we commence our attacks upon the very citadel of life, and compress those organs upon which our health depends, into so small a compass that they are impeded in the performance of their functions, and consequently enfeebled. In the contracted chest of the fashionably dressed lady, the lungs, the great purifiers of the blood, by means of the air we inhale, are so compressed that part of their cells are rendered inactive, and consequently the blood passing through them is imperfectly oxygenated, and returned, in its impure state, to the left side of the heart, thereby causing the whole system to suffer. The liver, stomach, and other digestive organs in the immediate vicinity, are crowded upon each other, and rendered, in a degree, inactive, with other evils too numerous to mention.

While we know, and sensibly feel the truth of this, will we still persist in it, merely because it is the *fashion*, and with our eyes open, rush on to misery and death? No!—the mind of every intelligent lady would revolt at the thought. If in years past, ignorance of the structure and laws of the laws of the human system, was the plea, now such an excuse will not suffice, for all may know and understand themselves. And should there be an association formed by the sisters of Michigan, in which they would bind themselves to follow no fashion detrimental to health, more good would result from it than from all the unions of the Daughters of Temperance, and future generations would rise up and bless the institution. Is there not a call for such a society? Is not the fashionable lady as much attached to the contracted waist, as ever the inebriate was to

his cup? And is not the one as surely sapping the foundation of life as the other? Think, then, ye followers of tight, fashionable dressing, as you view the drunkard with his cup—think that you are none the less guilty, for both are committing slow, but sure suicide. Resolve, this moment, to be no longer the willing slave of fashion, but follow the wholesome laws of nature, and the teachings of good common sense, so that your life be one of health and happiness, and when death shall come, approach your grave

"Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch
Around him, and lies down to pleasant dreams."

FRANCES.

Ray, Macomb Co., Mich., '51.

For the Michigan Farmer.

KATE'S MANNER OF CLEANING RIBBONS AND GLOVES.

Mix in a saucer some molasses, soft soap, and alcohol—a tablespoonful of each. Have ready a large basin of warm soft water. After laying your ribbon on a clean board, hold it over the basin, and rub on the preparation gently, with a soft brush, now and then dashing the water on to the silk. Repeat this process until it is perfectly clean, and then rinse it in soft water, being careful not to wrinkle it. Lay it between the folds of clean cloth, and iron on the wrong side before it is dry. Plain or figured satin, cleaned in this way, sometimes looks as well as new. Lustering does not clean quite so well. Never wring your ribbons.

Gloves may be rubbed gently with India rubber, or bread; but the best way to cleanse white, or light-colored kid gloves, is to wash them in camphene. It is not expensive. Pour it in a saucer, (as a shallow dish is the best,) and wash them with your hands. Two saucers a little more than half full, will clean them thoroughly. Wash them in the one, and rinse them in the other. They will look greasy, but will soon dry. Never mix water with the camphene. Hang the gloves, after they are washed, in an airy place, in order to rid them of the odor of the camphene. If gloves are not badly soiled, dip a cloth in the camphene, and rub the spots.

Yours, &c.,

KATE.

To make good hash—Take cold, boiled corned beef, good; twice the amount of potatoes that you have of beef; chop all fine; warm the whole together, with a piece of butter the size of an egg to enough for six persons, and a tea cup of milk; the milk should be hot when added to the hash, and the whole stirred till thoroughly cooked; add more milk if needed, for hash should be moist. A quantity of boiled turnips, equal to one-sixth of the potato, or less, will improve it; for seasoning, use salt and pepper. A poor dish of hash is a dish that can hardly be excelled in badness—it is about the last of all human fodder; while that which is good will be preferred to most others.

MICHIGAN FARMER.

Warren Isham, Editor.

DETROIT, JUNE, 1851.

As we have not received anything from Mr. Isham yet, we publish the following, which we find in the Detroit Advertiser. We expect, without fail, something for the July No. from his pen, from across the "big waters," unless they sink that little garden spot over there. C. B.

NOTES BY THE WAY.

LOVEJOY'S HOTEL, }
New York, April 22, 1851. }

Messrs. Duncklee & Wales:

In compliance with your request, that I should send you something occasionally for the Advertiser, I set myself down to the task, and the more cheerfully as many of your readers are numbered among my personal friends.

The first stage on the long, long journey before me, has been as pleasant as the nature of the case would admit. The sense of safety and comfort which one feels on board the Mayflower contrasts delightfully with the consciousness of insecurity and discomfort which formerly made the passage across Lake Erie so much dreaded. And from Buffalo onward, the route may be made quite tolerable by stopping over night at Buffalo and Albany, which can be done and still New York be reached in three days from Detroit—and any man who wants to travel faster than that may be set down as a fanatic, as one who runs before he is sent, and who "is never likely to be brought up standing" in all his calculations, at his journey's end. No, no: these are not the men to accomplish great ends.

After all, make the best you can of it, the traveler has a bitter cup to drink while on the way; but it is made up to him—and more too—when he gets to a stopping place. In comfortable quarters at a public house, he feels like one who has come out of great tribulation. While on the way he was nobody and nothing. Cramped into a public conveyance with hundreds of others, he is hurried along by day and by night (if he is fool enough) by steamboat and railroad, with little more liberty than the criminal in his cell, uncared for, unpitied, and unheeded, until he becomes jaded, worn down, sea-sick, car-sick and earth-sick, with scarcely energy and self respect enough left to care whether he lives or dies.

But behold the change! Let this poor forlorn creature, this woe-begone specimen of the race—when he comes to a stopping place, get into an omnibus, drive up to a respectable hotel and call for the best the house affords, and all is obsequiousness—all are ready at his bidding; well may he appreciate and enjoy his change of fortune,

when he considers what he so recently was and what he now is—then, an obscure, passive, and dependent thing, doing the bidding of others; but now, with the poker in his hand and the bell-pull within reach, he is more a Monarch than the King on his throne. Talk about your independent circumstances! There is no such independence as his, no such exemption from care, no such ministering spirits to fly at command, no such contrasts to heighten enjoyment.

True, life is a chequered scene, and the circumstances which confer consequence and the means of enjoyment upon it, have generally as little to do with its real merits as those described above. It is humiliating, but nevertheless true, that men are lifted up, fawned upon, caressed, and almost adored, or cast down, trodden upon, despised, and forgotten, according as prosperity pours its sunlight or adversity flings its shadow across their path—a sad testimonial to the degeneracy of the race.

Much as I anticipate from, and joyfully as I look forward to my contemplated tour, there is, I confess, something saddening in the thought of leaving the shores of my beloved country to wander in foreign lands only for a few months. To dis sever one's self from business, from friends, endearments of social life, all the hallowed scenes which come thronging upon the memory, to go forth a stranger in a strange land—O, it is enough to break up the deep fountains within!

But what am I saying? I am going upon a family visit. *My country!* The World is my country; and man—man of every nation and every tongue, is my brother. I am going to meet my kindred from the four quarters of the Globe, and intend to visit many of them at their own fireside before I return, and I expect to be recognized, by family likeness, as a brother, in three continents of the Eastern Hemisphere. Joyfully, then, will I commit myself to the protection of Him who holds the winds in his fist, and who has but to speak in the softest whisper, amid the roar of the elements, and there is a great calm.

I had intended to say more of my journey hither. I shall only glance hastily at the last part of it. At Poughkeepsie I was transferred to the cars of the Hudson River Railroad, which came dashing right through all the mountain ledges which came in their way, and there are no less than six of them between Poughkeepsie and this city, which push themselves to the water's edge, and there was no getting around them, nor over them, the only alternative being to get through them. Emerging from the mountains, the next plunge we make is into the river, that is to say, the railroad does so, and the cars, of course, follow—the rock excavated in tunnelling being made use of to construct the road in the river from one point to another.

Although it is the most terrifically romantic route I ever traveled—while you are fairly quivering with apprehension lest the cars should be

dashed to shivers against the rocks, all at once your eye is caught by some beetling cliff, rearing itself up in wild and awful majesty to the clouds, and, forgetting your fears, you are lost in wonder, admiration and awe, as you gaze upon the scene, peak rising above peak, and looking down terrifically upon you.

And then how delightful, how softening and mellowing to the feelings, to look out at intervals upon the green hill side, which rises gently and gracefully to its summit, where stands, perched a beautiful mansion, looking down benignantly upon you!

In the route we passed a number of very pretty villages, among which are New Baltimore, Cold Spring, Fishkill, Peekskill, Sing Sing, and Tarrytown, the last of which has been immortalized by the wizzard pen of Irving, in his inimitable sketch of the person, character and exploits of Ichabod Crane, the schoolmaster of Sleepy Hollow, the entrance to which gapes upon you as you pass.

But I must restrain myself. This road has thus far cost not far from six millions of dollars, or about 80 thousand dollars per mile. The travel upon it will be immense when it has reached Albany; its cars overtake and pass the boats almost in a twinkling, and of course all who care for speed will avail themselves of its advantages, and while the river is frozen in winter, it will take the whole.

I will add, that I have not yet engaged a passage, but shall probably get off this week. Judge Burt took passage upon the Baltic, of the Collins line; friend Burch, of Monroe, has engaged his upon the Africa, of the Cunard line. I shall take passage upon the same, or upon the Mary Ann Peters. Col. Brewster, of Superior, Washenaw Co., is here, and talks of going too, his principal object being to get a lot of French Merino sheep.

Respectfully yours,

WARREN ISHAM.

P. S.—There will be about as great a disparity between those who talked of going to the World's Fair and those who actually go, here, as at the West. The number who go is comparatively few.

Emigrants are flocking to our shores in numbers beyond precedent the present season, early as it is. Upwards of seventeen thousand have been landed at this port within the last week.

W. I.

Detroit Seed Store.—F. F. Parker & Brother have greatly enlarged their stock of field, garden and flower seeds, and can supply orders for any kind which will be likely to be wanted. The freight on a single barrel of seeds which they shipped from London, was twenty-three dollars. We hope they will be encouraged in their laudable enterprise, by liberal sales.

CLOSE OF VOL. VIII., NEW SERIES.

In announcing the close of the present volume of the "Farmer," we feel it to be our duty to acknowledge our deep gratitude to all our friends, who within the past year have devoted so large a portion of their time to the obtaining of subscribers for the Farmer, thereby disseminating, we trust, correct views and principles, upon the subject of agricultural economy, the practical observance of which must ensure success in our noble profession. With the united energies of our friends, and our own unremitting labors, we are bound to achieve a triumph that will change entirely the character of the agriculture of our State.

The work has already obtained a strong foothold. The growing demand for better implements, seeds and stock; the tendency toward system and a philosophical rotation of crops, and the earnest inquiries in relation to the leading subjects of present investigation in agriculture and horticulture, prove incontestibly, that the great work has begun in full earnest.

Our friends at the east are aware of our progress, and are already talking of "competition," "catching up," and so on. Mr. Howard, of the Albany Cultivator, at a meeting of the State Agricultural Society, stated that it would be a "very difficult matter for western farmers to catch up with New York farmers." This may be true, but we are bound to do it, and in this resolve we know that the great pulse of the west beats one determined impulse.

The Press is the great instrument to accomplish the work, and we call upon all of our friends and subscribers to redouble their efforts to extend the circulation of the "Farmer." We want a response that will send it to the fireside of every farmer, great or small, rich or poor, in the whole circle of our acquaintance, before the first of January next.

The interest manifested by our subscribers generally, in paying up their subscriptions punctually, we regard as decisive testimony of a determination on their part to sustain the enterprise in which we have enlisted, and furnishes irrefragable proof that our people are imbued with the true Anglo-Saxon to such a degree, that we shall be able to "catch up with the New York farmers," if we don't do anything more.

We shall commence the new volume with the first of Mr. Isham's "Notes," from Europe.

In conclusion, let us urge our friends who are

in arrears, to pay up immediately. The receipts of the establishment have fallen off greatly since Mr. Isham left, and as it is his settled policy to pay all expenses as they occur, some other mode for obtaining means must be devised, unless those who have had the paper and have paid nothing for 3 and 4 years, will immediately send on their dues. They are few in number, 'tis true, yet what they owe would help us greatly now.

C. B.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. A. Buckland. Are you sure that the white threads you found in the lungs of your sheep were worms? Might they not be *pus*, (humor,) taking that form? Such a disease is entirely unknown to us. We have never before heard of it. At the same time, it is not very uncommon to find living insects infesting both the skin and interior parts of animals, and occasionally they occur in a form entirely new. One of the most extraordinary cases on record is, that of a man who died some years ago, of an unknown disease, in a London Hospital. On the surgeon's opening him to make an examination, the knife was found to grate on something hard, like sand in the skin. When inspected with a microscope, the skin of the whole body was found filled to repletion with a minute worm with a hard epidermis. They had never been seen before, and have never, that we are aware, been met with since.

"S. H. M." A cross with the Cotswold and fine-wooled (Merino) sheep, could scarcely be beneficial. The two are of an entirely different family, and their wools are adapted to different purposes. The long wool of the Cotswold is intended for worsted; it is straight, and is deficient in the minute hooks which distinguish the short wool, and which cause an intimate union in fulling. This is not required, and would prove an inconvenience in worsted wools, which is absolutely necessary in those intended for broadcloths. As a breeder, we are averse to all mixtures of widely different families, unless some peculiar end, well digested before hand, is aimed at.

"Yankee." To cure a swollen udder, or what is usually understood by that name, milk very clean, and if bad, foment with warm water two or three times a day for half an hour, after which rub in thoroughly, as much lard as you can cause to adhere. If not very bad use the lard alone. Perseverance in this will effect a cure. There are, however, chronic enlargements of the udder which are beyond cure.

"W. S. Crafts." If properly managed so as to prevent dirt entering, the water in cisterns is not considered unhealthy. In many parts of the country they are extensively used by families, and even in Cincinnati, where it may be supposed that rain water is less pure than in the country, they are preferred by the wealthy to the use of river water. The best plan, however, is to use a charcoal and sand filter, which is cheap, easily constructed and perfect in its operation. The top, in all cases, should be so constructed that nothing but the water can enter.

"Susan." We would respectfully recommend this lady to purchase one of the many works on gardening which have appeared of late years, from the cost of a few shillings to as many dollars. In any of them, she will find such directions as she requires, "The Kitchen and Fruit Gardener," and "Complete Florist," bound in one volume, and containing 216 pages, published by Lea & Blanchard, 1744, is perhaps as good as any of a small size. We think it costs three shillings at the East. Such books ought to be purchased for our School Libraries, and they would extend a taste for this refining, virtuous pursuit. A love for flowers is one of the cheapest and most delightful passions an individual can indulge.

C. F.

NEW THRESHING MACHINE.

We have just been shown by the inventor and manufacturer, Mr. R. T. Merrill, of Birmingham, Michigan, a beautiful model of an improved threshing and cleaning machine.

The improvement consists, first, in cleaning the grain perfectly from all straw, sticks, chaff and ches. There appears to be no possible way for such materials to mix with the grain after it leaves the cylinder. The clean grain is received into a bag or measure. Second, Threshing wet grain, buckwheat, &c., without clogging. This is effected by the peculiar shape of the teeth. Third, The machine is provided with two fans, operating separate and distinct from each other, which helps to effect the perfect separation of the grain from every refuse substance. Fourth, In metallic straw-carriers, by which a great saving is made in expense consequent upon the wear of this part in the machines now in use. These carriers are provided with small troughs, by means of which any scattering grain that is carried on to them in the straw, is conveyed to the mill with the rest. All the heads that pass thro' unthreshed are also saved. In fine, it unites the above named improvements with all the good

qualities of the Rochester machines; and we do not hesitate to recommend it to the Farmers of West as far superior to them.

We were assured by the manufacturer, that it would thresh a bushel and a half per minute, or one hundred bushels in one hour.

The quantity of wind is regulated by a metallic valve placed in the passage-way from the fan, so that light grain can be threshed and cleaned without waste.

C. B.

SAND CRACK IN HORSES.

There is, perhaps, no accident which can befall a horse, independent of absolute disease, more annoying than the cracking up of the hoof, and more difficult to manage properly. In some instances, it appears to be, like many other failings in this animal, hereditary; and, indeed, at this moment, we have a three years' old colt, which last winter, a year ago, in running out, split its hoof into the coronet, before it was discovered.—

A few months ago, the same accident happened to its sire, and promises to ruin it for life; the fibres of the feet of both being peculiarly brittle.

As we have had some experience in this disease, we feel inclined to lay it before our readers.

The accident occurs both in the hind and fore feet, but more frequently in the latter, in which case it is usually found at the inner quarter or side, occasionally at the outer, and still more rarely, immediately in front. In the hind feet it is generally in front. If it be noticed when it first commences, it is easily cured, by the means hereafter mentioned. If it be allowed to spread and the under parts participate, it will become a cause of incurable lameness; and if it has extended through the coronet, (the soft skin immediately above, and from which the hoof grows) it may occasionally be cured, but we believe, will generally leave a distorted and unsound hoof, let what will be done.

At first, the crack, commencing at the bottom, is in general superficial, not extending through the crust to the soft parts. In this case, there is no lameness, and all that is requisite is to burn the hoof at the top of the crack, *across it*, pretty deeply; to prevent its extending, put on a light circular shoe, and, if convenient, turn the animal into a soft, damp pasture. With a proper shoe, however, and with watching to see that the crack does not extend in depth or length, it may be regularly worked, in wet and dirty roads, filling it up with tar. The shoe should be used till the crack is entirely grown out; but such a shoe re-

quires frequent replacing, owing to the pressure it causes on the heels. We once cured a bad crack of this kind, in a fast trotting mare, used on macadamized roads round New York city, entirely in this way; but the shoe was changed once a fortnight.

If the crack has extended through the crust, and lameness is the consequence, it becomes serious. The first thing to be done is to clear it out with warm water, and, if necessary, a piece of soft wood gently used; the edges of the horn should be thinned, as much as possible, along the crack, and if proud flesh, or fungus appears, it must be destroyed by the *very careful* application of a red hot iron, so as to touch the hoof as little as possible, or by applying *batyr of antimony*, which can be had of any druggist. Let a hot iron be then well applied across the top and bottom of the crack, a little dry tow be placed in it, and the whole be tied up tightly. At the end of three days, examine it again. If the fungus has not disappeared, use the same application; but if it has, all that is necessary is to cover it with pitch, and tow, and keep the horse in the stable, and when the lameness has entirely disappeared, put on the circular shoe, filling up with pitch as it falls out. When the lameness is bad, *and yet no disease of the soft part is apparent*, we have found poultices made of bran, hot water, and lard, changed every twelve hours, for a few days, very serviceable in withdrawing the inflammation, and lowering the heat of the hoof. If the case has become so bad, that *sineus* are formed, and the humor is forcing its way out at the coronet, it becomes a fit case for a veterinary surgeon, and the loss of the whole hoof is probable.—

When the *coronet* itself is divided, the great aim must be to cause it to unite, without leaving any mark. The whole crust of the hoof is secreted by, and grows out from, the thin bare skin immediately at the top of it, and if this be separated, the hoof must continue to grow separate to the end of time. The only plan of effecting this union seems to be by burning. Pass a flat iron, heated red hot, quickly over the place, until it makes a decided impression, taking care not to burn beyond it more than possibly can be helped; and then apply *Turner's Cerate* thickly spread on a piece of tow, and tied on. This process must be continued at intervals, as often as necessary, till the crack in the coronet has disappeared, the horse being tied up, with sufficient straw under the feet to prevent hard blows on the floor. It is a tedious disease, and in some instances months are required for its extirpation. *Turner's Cerate* is thus made: Five (5) parts of lard, and one of resin, are melted together, and when these begin to get cool, two parts of *calamine*, reduced to an

impalpable powder, are stirred in. Calamine is a carbonate of zinc, kept by almost any druggist. This salve is valuable for almost any kind of wound, cracked heels, &c., and every one who has to use horses should keep it on hand.

C. F.

OAT MEAL.

Most of our readers are probably aware that in Scotland, and some parts of England and Ireland, oat meal is extensively used as food, and is considered peculiarly nourishing; but they are not aware how this meal is prepared. Oats grown on light, loamy soil, are the best for the purpose, and they should be as nearly of equal size as possible. Before grinding, they must be kiln dried, and for this purpose, when done on a large scale, a cast iron floor, pierced with numerous small holes, and placed many feet above the fire, is used. On this the oats are placed, and they must be turned several times before the moisture they contain is evaporated. There is a fraudulent trick of scattering sulphur among them at this time, to give them a peculiar bright color. When they are cold, the next process is to shell them, which is done between stones, usually five feet in diameter, free inside the eye, perfectly straight on the face, and capable of making 700 revolutions in a minute. *Freestone*, or sandstone, is considered best for the purpose. The oats then pass along a dust sieve, into the fans, which separate the seeds and small grains from the good quality, which is removed, either by elevators, or by hand, into the hopper of the grind stones. These stones should be five feet in diameter, peen inside the eye, straight on the face, but never grooved like those for grinding wheat.—They should make 300 revolutions a minute. A sieve is suspended under the eye, which completely separates the meal from the seeds. To preserve it, it should be tread very hard into a large chest, to exclude the air, and thus packed is said to increase in weight. It is chiefly cooked by boiling, not being adhesive like wheat flour; and thus prepared, is known as "*hasty pudding*," "*stir-a-bout*," and "*crowdy*" when the skimming of boiled beef is added; but it is also made into thin sheets or cakes, dried on a line. C. F.

The Working Farmer.—This standard work still maintains its high character, under the editorial auspices of Professor Mapes. We commend it to the patronage of all our Subscribers who desire an eastern work of this kind, as replete with sound, enlightened and well-digested views, sustained and enforced by well-considered facts and experiments. It is an honor to the agriculture of

the country, and should be honored by it with a good support. It is a large quarto, 24 pages; A. Longett, publisher, 24 Cliff street, New York. Price One Dollar. The volume commenced with the March number.

REPLY TO "BUSHWHACKER."

Plow deep—the deeper the better.

The depth of your ditches, as well as the distance apart, will depend on the situation of your land.

If you contemplate making under-drains, the depth will depend upon, beside the lay of the ground, the material to be used in constructing the lower part of the drain. They should be made deep enough to be out of the reach of the plow, and carry off the water freely.

Plaster is rarely if ever needed on heavy soils. It is upon light sandy soils that it proves so highly beneficial. C. B.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

We have received the "Report of the Committee of Judges upon the Second Annual Exhibition of the New England Society for the Improvement of Domestic Poultry."

Quite an affair, indeed, it must have been.—The Report states, that though arrangements were made to accommodate ten thousand specimens, they were entirely insufficient.

The entries numbered four hundred coops and cages.

There were in all over 350 contributors.

Also, the Journal of the New York State Agricultural Society. Mr. B. P. Johnson, Corresponding Secretary, has been appointed by Gov. Hunt a delegate to attend the Exhibition at London on the part of the State. Mr. A. F. Chatfield and others will attend to the duties of his station in his absence. C. B.

Drain Tile.—Mr. J. Danes, of Bloomfield Centre, we are happy to learn, has commenced the manufacture of Tiles for drains. The demand already, we are informed, exceeds the manufacture. Doubtless Mr. Dane will make immediate arrangements to supply all who may want them. We are truly glad that the manufacture of this so much needed article has been commenced, and we hope Mr. Dane will do well.—They are to be had in this city at Howard Webster's, on the opposite side of the street from and a little below the Advertiser Office. They have two sizes—one at 20 cents, and the larger at 30

cents per rod, without sole—10 cents per rod for sole. But they are generally bought without the sole, and a plank or thick board is used to lay them on. They are burned like brick, and are of the same color.

C. B.

For the Michigan Farmer.

ON BEES—NO. VI.

Large and strong swarms are disposed at certain seasons of the year to rob small and feeble swarms; and, in fact, all honey bees are disposed to gather honey wherever they can with safety do it; consequently it is necessary to watch them. And when it is discovered that the bees from one hive are robbing another, it should be immediately prevented. Ordinarily, they will not gather honey from any other source than from blossoms; but early in the spring, before blossoms have put forth, and again in the fall, after the frost has nipped them, they will. It is a very singular fact that in the season when the fields are in full bloom, they will not touch honey placed before them in a vessel or comb, even if it be placed within a few inches of the entrance to the hive.

At the season of the year that they are disposed to rob, great caution should be had that no honey be left near the hives, as it will surely entice robbers in the vicinity of the hives and induce robbery.

When upon these robbing excursions, their motions and actions are entirely different from what they are at other times, and trifling observation will enable us to detect and distinguish a robber at a glance; their motions in their approach to the hive they intend to rob are more rapid—dodging from right to left in front of the hive, first advancing, then retreating, occasionally approaching near the entrance, and again retreating as if frightened, which is often the case, for in their near approaches, the besieged use their efforts to defend themselves. This they exhibit by raising themselves upon their hind feet and endeavor to catch the robber, or by pursuing him upon the wing; and it frequently occurs that they are enabled to catch him, and a combat ensues, with but very little or no resistance on the part of the robber; if he escapes capture, he persists, until, in an unguarded moment, he steals his way into the hive, but still runs the hazard of being detected. As soon as it is discovered that there are any robbers at work, it should be prevented, as they will soon increase to such numbers as to overpower the swarm. This may be done, by closing a portion of the entrance, the better to enable the besieged to guard the same. If after eight or twelve hours this process should prove unsuccessful, which is determined by the increase of the number of robbers, the next process is to close the entrance to the hive altogether, or so much so as to prevent the ingress or egress of any bees, at the same time be sure to see that the ventilators are left open for the admission of air.

This process must always be adopted in the evening, when both parties of bees are at their homes. During the time they are thus confined, say three or four days, a small quantity of water, perhaps a table spoonfull, should be introduced three times during each day, during which time the robbers will discover that they can obtain no more plunder, and abandon the siege.

Whilst upon this branch of the subject I would advise, during the season of the year that they rob each other, honey should not be placed in the vicinity of the hives in open vessels or comb, as it surely will induce them to rob.

For the Michigan Farmer.

ON SHEEP.

SHERMAN, March 5, 1851.

Mr. Isham:

In a number of the Farmer for 1850 (not having any of them present I am unable to ascertain which one,) I noticed the following:—"There is a barbarous custom of daubing tar, on sheep's noses, to kill, or prevent grubs in the head. This is more than useless. It blisters, and takes the skin off, without any other effect. Good hay and grain, and dry sheds, are sure preventives of the grub; but all the tar in North Carolina won't save sheep, with poor keeping." Differing with the writer of this article, I will give my reasons for daubing on the tar. The grub in the head is caused by a small fly, which lays her eggs on the noses of sheep just in the edge of the nostrils, and are snuffed into the head. This fly never makes its appearance except in very warm weather; and this is the reason, why these naturally high headed animals carry their noses so near the ground through the heat of the summer. It is, that the fly may not have a chance to get at the end of the nose. This fly has a very strong aversion to the smell of tar, and if a small quantity be put around the edge of the nostrils once in two weeks, through the heat of the summer, you will lose few sheep with the grub in the head; but after the eggs have reached their natural home, and hatched, the tar is of no use. I have dissected seven different sheep's heads; three of them were the fattest sheep that could be selected from a small but thrifty flock, and killed for mutton. The other four were sheep that died with different diseases, and in all, except one, I found more or less grubs, some about the size and shape of a common maggot, and others half an inch in length.

I believe that more sheep die from this cause than people are generally aware of. I believe the grubs generally commence their ravages about seven months after the egg is laid. The disease maybe known by these signs: the sheep will frequently stretch themselves at full length upon their sides, stretching their necks back to the utmost, and turning their noses upwards. The grub will generally be found about one inch and

a quarter from the inside corner of the eye, in an angling direction, downwards, and across the nose. This is their hatching place; the bone is very thin at the place, and may be cut through with a common pocket knife. They never do any harm at this place, but if the sheep be poor, the cavities are very open, and they have a fair chance to go upwards and gnaw upon the bone, near the brain, and cause their death, (and some affirm that they sometimes enter into the brain, but I never have found any there;) but if the sheep be in good condition, the cavities are closed, and they can move in no other direction, except downwards, and then no harm is done. The following recipe is generally a sure cure:

To one pint of water put one-half a paper of common threepenny tobacco, a lump of alum the size of a robin's egg, and steep it one-half hour; then strain off the liquor, and pour a table spoon-full in each nostril. This I consider a sure cure, but my experience and observations are, that good hay, grain, and dry sheds, are not always preventives. I believe that good hay, a little grain, and dry sheds, are great preventives, because sheep well and regularly fed, and well protected from the storms and cold, are generally in good order. Therefore, the cavities in the head above the hatching place, are nearly closed, and the grub cannot proceed upwards.

SAM. TYLER.

THE WILDERNESS BLOSSOMING, &c.

OLIVET, Eaton Co., March 3, 1851.

To the Editor of the Michigan Farmer:

Enclosed are four dollars to pay for five copies of the Michigan Farmer, which I consider the best agricultural paper which it has been my privilege to peruse.

According to the best of my information, we have one of the best counties of land in the State, and this fact is well attested by the enterprise of its inhabitants, who seem to feel that they are not laboring in vain while clearing up the heavy forests which, but a few years since, had undisputed possession of the soil.

We have a good institution of learning here, which has, for several years been in successful operation, and has been patronized by hundreds of young gentlemen and ladies of our own State, and also by students from the Empire, New England, and Buckeye States.

Perhaps no other Institution in our State offers better advantages to those who wish to cultivate their minds than this. Thorough instruction is given by well educated Professors, tuition is low, expenses for board &c. moderate, and last, though not least, we are exempt from many of those influences which prevail in most villages. A drop of ardent spirits has never been sold under the sanction of law. Hence good order prevails in society. We have two stores, one flouring mill, one saw mill, and lath factory attached, mechanic shops &c. in successful operation. The

stage from Marshall to the Capital passes through the place back and forth twice a week, affording means of conveyance to those who wish to find our locality. And here let me say, that I am much pleased with the educational department of your paper, and hope it will be well sustained by those who ought to be interested in the cause.

I hope to send you a few more names before long.

Yours with respect,

F. DANFORTH.

For the Michigan Farmer.

A HINT TO FARMERS ON MANURING.

Mr. Editor:

Suppose that farmers, on returning from the village, should load their wagons with manures found in the streets, such as the sweepings of blacksmith shops, the horse dung, hoof pairings, coal dust and cinders, (these and bones should be broken fine as may be,) also refuse from the furnace, the leather pairings of the shoe shop, the bones found in the streets, the ashes thrown out by shopkeepers, &c., &c. Farmers can afford to pay shopkeepers to save these items of manure for them. Let any man try this mode of enriching his garden if he dare.

H. R.

Litchfield, April 10, 1851.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Mr. Editor:

E. Rose, Esq., of this county, is the first, so far as I know, to apply the Cant Hook on a large scale to pulling stumps. A bar of iron one inch thick, four or five inches wide, and three or four feet long, fashioned into a cant hook, inserted near the end of a lever eight or ten inches in diameter at the butt end, twenty or twenty-five feet long, with a team hitched to the small end, will uproot almost any partly decayed stump, and save the expense of broken chains.*

A SUBSCRIBER.

St. Joseph County, Ia., April 15, 1851.

* Mr. J. A. Thompson, of Burr Oak, has used such an instrument, and with good success, when the stump was solid so as not to shell off.

For the Michigan Farmer.

HOW TO KILL SORREL.

From two years' trial, I have found that plowing the ground when the sorrel is full in blossom will effectually destroy it.

It should be plowed deep and well turned under. It usually blossoms between the tenth and twentieth of June. Try it, farmers. B.

North Plains, Ionia Co., Mich., April, 15, 1851.

Notice.—We are obliged to issue the present No. earlier than usual or wait until very late, on account of the unusually large amount of printing matter which the Publishers have on hand to be done, an occurrence which they will guard against in future.

C. B.

WOOL.

We quote from the *Detroit Advertiser*, (not having yet received the "Wool Grower" for which we have been anxiously looking,) the following statement in reference to the prospects and prospects of the wool market.

The prospects of the Wool trade are fair for Michigan, and although a fall has been apprehended, nothing has yet occurred to make such predictions certain. We quote present New York and Boston prices as follows, viz:

	New York	Boston.
American Saxony, fleece per lb.	50a55	50a57
do full blood Merino,	44a51	45a51
do 1-2 and 3-4 Merino,	43a45	42a45
do Native and $\frac{1}{2}$ Merino,	40a41	41a43
Superfine, pulled, country,	41a41	40a44
No. 1, pulled, country,	36a39	35a40
Sup. pulled, city,	39a41	
Peruvian, washed,	26a35	
S. American, washed,	18a20	
S. A. washed and picked,	23a25	
S. A., unwashed,	10a12	
African, washed,	28a35	
Smyrna, unwashed,	14a17	14a18
Mexican, unwashed,	17a18	16a18
Cordova, washed,	25a26	

New York advices says:

The discrepancy between the price demanded for wool and the value of woolen goods is causing some trouble at the factories. Various large establishments are suspending business for awhile being unwilling to continue purchasing the raw material at a high price, without any immediate prospect of a rise in the manufactured goods.—Two large factories in the neighborhood of Albany discharged their hands last week, and suspended business until a favorable change shall take place in the market. The western papers state that speculators are about in the northern part of Illinois and Wisconsin, making offers, it is said liberal ones, for the next clip of wool. Farmers in some instances are unwilling to close with them. It is stated that there is a scarcity in the supply in this part of the country; that this State and New England have been killing off their flocks, and that the wool must mainly come from Pennsylvania, Ohio and the western States. This may be true or it may be to some extent exaggerated. One thing, however, is certain, that all persons purchasing woolen goods have not found them so cheap in many years, whether they have been buyers for cash or on credit.

Michigan Wool is now deservedly favorite in market. It meets the market sooner, that owing to circumstances of feed and climate, lays up lighter, and meets the eye of the stapler, and manufacturers more favorable than most other varieties. Our advice to Michigan Farmers is to send forward *promptly*, and to be very particular in washing and tying up.

NEVER TOO OLD TO LEARN.

Socrates, at an extreme old age, learned to play on musical instruments, for the purpose of resisting the wear and tear of old age.

Cato, at eighty years of age, began and learned the Greek language. How many at thirty-five and forty think they are too old to learn.—The exercise of the mind not keeping pace with that of the body, they don't live out half their days.

Plutarch, when between seventy and eighty, began the study of the Latin.

Boccaccio did not commence his studies in polite literature until he was thirty-five years of age, yet he became one of the three great masters of the Tuscan dialect. The other two were Dante and Petrarch.

Ludovico Monaldesco wrote the Memoirs of his own times when he was an hundred and fifteen years old.

Franklin did not commence his philosophical studies until he reached his fiftieth year.

Who, then, is too old to learn? We believe that by constant exercise through life, the mind is as capable of performing any amount of intellectual labor, supposing the individual to be healthy, at the age of sixty, as at any period of life. And the reason why men think they are too old to learn, is because they neglect all manner of mental exercise, except, perhaps, what may be necessary to enable them to read a newspaper.

Men of long life have usually been men possessing active minds. B. C.

Discovery of a vein of Phosphate of Lime.—This discovery was made by Prof. Emmons, at Crown Point, in 1847. Last fall the mine was opened through the instrumentality of Mr. E., and it is ascertained to be an extensive vein of phosphate of lime, containing 92 per cent of that mineral. Prof. E. thinks it nearly inexhaustible, at least, he says, he would obligate himself to furnish 100,000 tons. It is a manure of great value.

A wool depot is about being established at Chicago, by John S. Wright, one of the proprietors of the *Prairie Farmer*. He is now erecting a building 40X95 feet, five stories high.

Those farmers who have not yet got their lands into grass, will do well to sow early, some corn broadcast for feeding cows, working horses, and cattle, when feed gets short.

C. B.

Hemp Seed.—Those who have made inquiries in regard to the price of Hemp seed, are informed that it can be had at Parker's at two dollars per bushel.

Horticultural.

For the Michigan Farmer.

LICE ON FRUIT TREES.

Friend Isham:

Dear Sir: I would like to say something in reply to Wm. Taylor's "Pomological Inquiry," respecting bark-lice. The mischief effected through these minute insects, to fruit and other valuable trees, are far greater than is generally supposed, and hence every farmer and gardener must be interested in becoming intimately acquainted with the nature and habits of so formidable an enemy. For the following exceedingly interesting account of bark-lice, we are indebted to our eminent countryman Dr. Thaddeus Wm. Harris, of Massachusetts, who was employed by that extremely liberal and enlightened State (says Professor Johnson) to write an account of "insects injurious to vegetation," and made his report to the Legislature in 1841. Mr. Harris says:

"The following account, drawn up by me in the year 1828, and published in the seventh vol. of the N. E. Farmer, p. 86, 187—contained a summary of nearly all that is known respecting the history and habits of these insects (?) Early in the spring the bark-lice are found apparently torpid, situated longitudinally in respect to the branch, the head upwards, and sticking by their flattened interior surface closely to the bark. A little later, the body is more swelled, and on carefully raising it with a knife, numerous oblong eggs are seen beneath it, and the insect appears dried up and dead, and only its outer skin remains, which forms a convex cover to its future progeny. Under this protecting shield, the young are hatched, and, on the appearance of warm weather, make their escape at the lower end of the shield, which is either chiefly elevated or notched in this part. They then move with considerable activity, and disperse themselves over the young shoots or leaves. These young lice insert their beaks into the bark or leaves, and draw from the cellular substance, the sap that nourishes them. While they continue their exhausting suction of sap, they increase in size, and during this time are in what is called the larva state. When this is completed, the insects will be found of different magnitudes, some much larger than others, and they then prepare for a change that is about to ensue in their mode of life, by emitting from the under side of their bodies numerous little white downy threads, which are fastened, in a radiated manner, around their bodies, to the bark, and serve to confine them securely in their places. After becoming thus fixed, they remain apparently inanimate; but under these apparently lifeless scales the transforma-

tion of the insect is conducted; with this remarkable difference, that, in a few days, the larger ones contrive to break up and throw off, in four or five flakes, their scaly outer coats, and reappear in a very similar form to that which they before had; the smaller ones, on the contrary, continue under their outer skins, which serve instead of cocoons, and from which they seem to shrink and detach themselves, and then become perfect pupae, the rudiments of wings, antennae, feet, &c., being discoverable on raising the shells. If we follow the progress of these small lice, which are to produce the males, we shall see, in process of time, a pair of threads, and tips of the wings protruding beneath the shell at its lower part, and through this little fissure the perfect insect at length backs out. After the larger lice have become fixed and thrown off their outer coats, they enter upon the chrysalis state, which continues for a longer or shorter period according to the species. But when they have become mature, they do not leave the skins or shells covering their bodies, which continue flexible for a time. These larger insects are the females, and are destined to remain immovable, and never change their place after they have once become stationary."

"Young apple trees, and the extremities of limbs of older trees, are very subject to the attacks of bark lice. The limbs and smooth parts of the trunk are sometimes completely covered with these insects, and present a very singularly wrinkled and rough appearance from the bodies which are covered closely together. In the winter these insects are torpid, and apparently dead. They measure about one-tenth of an inch in length, are of an oblong oval shape, gradually decreasing to a point at one end, and are of a brownish color very near to that of the bark of the trees."

The first account we have of the occurrence of bark-lice on apple trees, in this country, is a communication of Mr. Enoch Parley, of Bridgetown, Maine, written in 1794, and published among the early papers of the Massachusetts Agricultural Society. They have now become extremely common, and infest our nurseries and young trees to a very great extent. They begin to hatch about the 25th of May, and finish about the 10th of June, according to Mr. Parley.

"A good application for the destruction of the lice, is a wash made of two parts of soft soap, and eight parts of water, with which is to be mixed lime enough to bring it to the consistence of thick white-wash." "This is to be put upon the trunks and limbs with a brush, as high as practicable, so as to cover the whole surface, and fill all the cracks in the bark."

"The proper time for washing over the trees is in the early part of June, when the insects are young and tender."

"These insects may also be killed by using, in the same way, a solution of two pounds of potash

in seven quarts of water, or a pickle consisting of a quart of common salt in two gallons of water."

Very respectfully,

Your obt^d serv^t,

H. T. BAKER.*

* Write often.—C. B.

KITCHEN GARDEN.

We venture to say that no portion of a farm of equal size is half as profitable as a good garden. It may be made to supply our tables with three-fifths of our necessary food for nearly the entire year; besides yielding, through the summer and autumn, a good supply of rich, luscious fruit.

The first indispensable requisite for a good garden, is simply, a deep, rich, dry soil. Unless the soil is deep, a free and succulent growth of vegetables through the summer, cannot be expected. We may calculate, that at some time in the course of the season of vegetables, a drouth will occur. If the soil is deep and mellow, no injury will happen to the growing plants; for a magazine of moisture is at hand to supply any deficiency occasioned by evaporation, and all the wants of growing vegetation.

On the other hand, if a season of extreme wetness occurs, the water immediately sinks and the evil resulting from a surplus of water on the surface is thus avoided. These two circumstances alone, prove the great value of deep cultivation. But besides these advantages, the roots of vegetables can extend themselves, and obtain such an abundance of food as to keep them constantly growing until matured; and they are then devoid of that tough fibrous or woody character, possessed by plants grown in a shallow soil, in want of food, or suffering from an excess or diminished supply of moisture.

As the soil is so richness, so will be the quality of fruits and vegetables. The difference between a rich and poor soil cannot be more distinct than the quality of articles grown upon them.

Arrangement of the Garden.—A great deal of labor is saved by having a garden systematically arranged. Permanent beds, herbs, &c., should occupy one side, that they may be out of the way of cultivating, with plow and cultivator. Let trees and bushes occupy the same row, but avoid setting the bushes so near the trees that their roots will become interwoven. It is not a good plan to set bushes along the fence; the ground cannot be so easily cultivated—the fruit is too much shaded, and the fence affords a harbor for birds. But rather let trees have this part, such as apples and pears.

We know that all are not prepared to go into much expense in gardening, but we are talking about *arrangement*, which every one, no matter how limited his means, can as well have as to have disorder. While the one manifests good taste and judgment, and is the very type of thrift,

the other may be construed to mean anything else. Let us see the convenience of it: Everything is planted in long rows, except some of the smallest seeds, such as onions, and a long bed may be made for them. A space is left, at each end, for a horse to turn upon, which may, after the time of cultivation is past, be sown with turnips. Now we have a "smart chance" to work the ground with horse and cultivator, thereby saving much hard labor and insuring a far better crop. This arrangement can be adopted on new ground just as well as on old.

If the ground is now kept loose and mellow by frequent stirring, a good crop of vegetables may be expected with certainty. C.B.

THE GRAPE.

PROPAGATION.—The vine is propagated by seeds, layers, cuttings, and by grafting.

Seeds are planted only for obtaining new varieties, by cross-fertilization, as described in an early chapter of this work.

Layers furnish a very sure mode of obtaining large well rooted plants the same autumn after the young shoots are buried in the soil, which may be done a little before midsummer.

Cuttings are less certain of success than layers, but are usually more convenient, and admit of more rapid multiplication. They should be a foot long and planted sloping, and should just reach up to the surface of the soil, which should be rich, deep, and rather moist. They strike more readily under a frame of glass. The modification of cuttings denominated eyes has been already described.

Grafting is sometimes useful for changing large vines of worthless sorts to a better, and bearing fruit in less time than a young vine on its own roots. To prevent bleeding, the work must be done below the surface in the root; or after the leaves are expanded, the scions having been preserved in a cool cellar for this purpose.

Soil. "The essence," says Downing, "of all that can be said in grape culture respecting soil, is that it be dry and light, deep and rich." A dry bottom is highly essential; hence a bed of stones, shells and bones, eighteen inches beneath the surface, has been very useful. The manure must be in some degree adapted to the nature of the soil, but generally, vegetable mould or muck, with a portion of ashes intermixed, as already prescribed for fruit trees, is one of the very best.

Pruning and Training. The grape admits of a great diversity in treatment, and many have their own peculiar modes of pruning and training. General rules are applicable to all. Universal experience proves that cutting away a large portion of the wood every autumn or winter, is indispensable to the regular and continued production of fine fruit. The bunches are borne near the base of the present year's growth; and in the mode termed spur-pruning, the side-shoots on the single main stem are annually cut off, to be

annually replaced by new shoots springing from buds left for this purpose. In the long-cane or renewal system, more than one main stem is allowed to grow; and each year every alternate stem is cut down to send up a new shoot in its place, the previous year's shoots bearing the present year's grapes on its side shoots. Spur pruning is best adapted to the more slowly growing or foreign sorts; and the renewal pruning to the more vigorous or American.

The summer treatment of grapes consists chiefly in thinning the shoots where there is danger of the leaves becoming crowded; thinning out the bunches; and, on exotic sorts, thinning out freely the berries. The frequent practice of nipping off the ends of the shoots, just above the bunches, when the grapes are as large as a pea, lessens their subsequent growth. For all fruits grow and ripen best when fed from a good supply of well grown but not crowded leaves, hence the foliage should not be lessened, nor the shoots shortened, until they interfere with each other's full development.—*American Fruit Culturist*.

THE ORCHARD IN JUNE.

Washing trees in strong ley or soap suds, should be the first thing attended to again after planting. We will agree to foot the bill if it does not pay. Give apple and pear trees a good supply of wood ashes. The ashes of oak wood, it is said, contain a large percentage of lime, and so also does the sap-wood and bark of these varieties of fruit; consequently they are an excellent manure, and the good effects of their application are certain.

Pruning, if not done in winter or spring, may be performed the latter part of this month; and young orchards particularly, should receive special attention, with a view to giving them a well-balanced top. It is much better to nip off a little twig with the thumb and finger, than to allow it to grow a year or two before attending to it.—Save wounding your trees in every possible way.

The Peach Worm must be settled with very early in this month. The presence of the marauder is indicated by the oozing of gum and gnawings at the surface of the ground. Scrape away the earth and with a sharp pointed knife trace him to his hiding place, and notwithstanding it will be a violation of the laws of the State, execute capital punishment upon him.

The Curculio.—For the destruction of this insect various means have been tried. The plan of spreading white sheets under the tree and jarring it with a mallet, is adopted by the most successful fruit growers in the Eastern States; but to be successful it must be done daily until no more can be found. Turning hogs in to pick up the poisoned fruit as it falls, thereby destroying the eggs, is also recommended by some where the arrangement is such as to permit it.

Trees planted out this spring, should have a good coating of long manure or coarse litter spread around them as far as the roots extend, to prevent the effects of drouth. C. B.

GOOSEBERRIES.

The great difficulty experienced in the cultivation of the Gooseberry, is its tendency to mildew. Various plans have been tried to prevent it, but they have been but rarely successful. Covering the ground, under the bushes, with salt, hay or straw, or thickly-matted moss, is recommended as a preventive; yet it is not *always* a preventive. Trimming up, and forming a tree, will, it is believed, ensure good, fair fruit.

The New England Farmer states that Houghton's Seedling Gooseberry is proof against mildew. The berry is not very large, oval, very tender and sweet, of a delicious flavor, and continues in season for four weeks. The editor says he has cultivated select foreign kinds, and while the fruit all blasted, that of the Houghton was fine and delicious. The American Pomological Congress recommended ten sorts as worthy general cultivation, and the Houghton heads the list. It is a very strong, fast grower, and bears every season, the previous year's growth being always loaded with fruit.

It is well worthy a fair trial. C. B.

For the Michigan Farmer.

RINGING FRUIT TREES.

Mr. Editor:

To make apple trees bear, on one-half of the tree one year, and the other the next, (if the frost don't kill the blows or apples,) cut out of one or more limbs of the tree near the body, a narrow strip of bark, about one-fourth of an inch wide all around the limb, when it is in bloom, or when it will peel easy, say from the time it blows out, till the last of June. If you do it when in the blow, it will make them stay on, and it will bear the next year. This will change that part to bearing one year, the other part the next.

Last year, I raised thirty bushels of apples by this means of girdling. I done it in about one hour. So much for my first attempt.*

* The author of the above communication will please forward his name, that he may receive credit for the money he sent. C. B.

For the Michigan Farmer.

GRAFTS.

Mr. Editor:

Dear Sir: As I have, on some former occasion, said something about saving scions, I will, (with your consent,) say a word now. I am now grafting from scions cut a year ago last November, to a year ago now, in as fine condition as ever. The budding I done from them last August, has proved successful, almost without a failing bud.

Thus, you see, if the desired varieties are obtained, when convenient, they may be saved and

budded or grafted from at pleasure; while, if they were then to be sought from afar, the usual result would be, they would not be obtained.

Respectfully yours,

J. T. WILLSON.

For the Michigan Farmer.

Mr. Isham:

Seeing the enquiry as to lice on fruit trees, I give my experience and what I have seen tried to good effect. It is a very cheap remedy. Leach your ashes and boil the lye till it is thick; then make a swab sufficiently long to prevent getting it on your clothes; wash your trees well with the lye, and they will be thrifty very soon, and the bark will be smooth.

L. A. S.

Irving, Barry Co., Mich., April 18, 1851.

THE ROSE.

Prof. Agassiz says that no fossils of the family of roses, in which he embraces the apple, pear, peach, apricot, cherry, strawberry, raspberry, blackberry, &c., have ever been discovered by geologists. It is inferred that these delicate and useful plants were introduced into the world about the time of the creation of man; an accompaniment to his existence; to gratify his taste, support his frame, and to beautify the earth, his dwelling place.


C. B.

A Thought.—Among all the benefits to be derived from growing the finer kinds of fruit, (inferior kinds have no claims,) the influence it exerts upon home and its inmates, is not to be forgotten or overlooked. Surely, if there is a place of quiet and peace on earth; if there are any practically good influences emanating from any domestic arrangements; they are to be found in and about that home which is surrounded with a judicious selection of fruit trees, and supplied with an abundance of delicious fruit of its own raising. An influence issues here, which operates in a most pleasing and satisfactory manner upon the minds of all, old and young.

C. B.

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 A new potato has lately been brought in to notice, which, it is said, will resist the rot. It is called the *Danvers seedling*, and is considered uncommonly good for the table.

RECEIPTS for the Michigan Farmer, from April 24 to May 12, 1851:

N Cressy \$2; G H Kedzie 2; J A S Irving 1; W M Comstock P M, 1; G Luther 3; G Davis, P M, 2; J C Green, P M, 4; H L Sadbury 1; A J Cushing 3; J Fowle, P M, 2; W O Austin, P M, 3 20; T Lockwood 2; R McClatchy 1; D Ferguson 1; T Hall 1; S Rood 1; C E Fay, P M, 4; N P Hobart, P M, 4; H Chamberlain 5; T Hagaman 2; W A McKay, P M, 3; J T Tabor, P M, 3; D Pullen 1; E P Benham, ag't, 13 47; P D McNaughton, P M, 2; J A Crawford 3, J C Warner, 50c; T Dort 2; E Lewis 1; J Redway 1; L Chapin, P M, 4; L Bacom, P M, 1; E Barrows 2; W Y Baker 1; A C Noble 1 80; G Judson 1 25; J C Carter 2; J C Stemmann, P M, 1; J W Congdon 2; E S Kollogg, P M, 1; R E Aldridge, P M, 1;

Detroit Prices Current:

Herd's Grass... \$ bu. \$2 00	Salt..... bbl \$ 1 50
Flax..... " " 1 00	Butter..... lb 10 @ 11
Lime..... " bbl 75	Eggs..... doz 7
Flour..... " 3 35	Hides..... lb 8 ½
Corn..... " bu 44	Wheat..... bu 78
Oats..... " 30	Hams..... lb 8
Rye..... " 40	Onions..... bu 70
Barley..... " 93	Cranberries..... 2 10
Hogs..... " 100 lb —	Buckwheat... " 100 lb 1 25
Apples..... " bu 1 00	Indian Meal... " 87
Potatoes..... " 31	Beef..... " 4 50 @ 5 00
Hay..... ton 10 @ 12 00	Lard..... " lb (retail) 9
Wool..... lb 18 @ 40	Honey..... " 10
Peas..... bu 1 00	Apples, dried, bu 1 00
Beans..... " 1 00	Peaches, " 2 50
Beef..... " bbl 7 @ 8 00	Clover seed... 5 50
Pork..... " 12 @ 14 00	Pine lumber, clear, 20 00 @ M ft
White Fish... 7 50	" " 2d " 15 00 "
Trout..... " 6 50	Bill lumber... 11 00 "
Codfish..... lb 4	Flooring..... 12 00
Cheese..... " 8 ½	Common..... 10 00
Wood..... cord 1 75 @ 2 25	Lath..... " 2 00

Detroit Nursery!

THE Proprietor of this well known establishment, grateful for the extensive patronage he has received, will endeavor to merit a continuance of the favors of his customers, by adding to his already choice collection of

Fruit and Ornamental Trees, Shrubby, &c.

all the new, rare, and valuable fruits and plants, as they are brought to notice.

The stock of pears, cherries, and peaches is particularly fine. Many of the cherry and dwarf pear trees are now showing fruit buds. Apple, quince, also currants, raspberries, gooseberries, strawberries, and grapes, of all the choice varieties, can be supplied at as low prices as at any other nursery.

Balsam fir, Norway spruce, Norway pine, red cedar, American arbor vitae, of good size for setting out. These evergreens are all grown from seed, and can be moved with a ball of earth attached, so there will be no danger of their being injured by moving.

The nursery is situated on the Chicago road, one and a quarter miles from the City Hall, Detroit.

Orders by mail or left at the dry goods store of John Palmer & Co., No. 108 Jefferson avenue, or at the nursery, will receive prompt attention.

J. C. HOLMES.

Detroit, April, 1851.

apr3m

Back Volumes of the Farmer.

A few copies of the 6th, 7th, and 8th volumes of the Mich. Farmer, pamphlet bound and in boards, for sale at our bookstore.

C. MORSE & SON.

Detroit, Feb. 1st, 1851.

mar1f

J. G. DARBY,

ENGRAVER.

No. 151, Corner Jefferson Avenue and Bates Street, Detroit, (Third Story.)

MAPS, Visiting and Business Cards, Portraits, Bills of Exchange, Wood Cuts, &c.

—ALSO—

Door Plates, Silver Ware, &c., elegantly engraved. Detroit, January 1st, 1851.

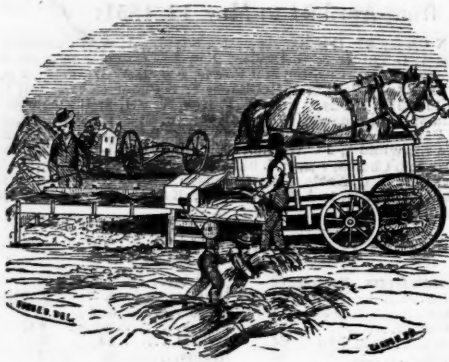
SMITH'S Patent Ventilating Smaut Machine—

Also, Mott's Agricultural Furnace, for sale by

D. O. & W. S. PENFIELD.

Detroit, Jan'y 1, 1850.

New-York State Agricultural Society.
AGRICULTURAL MACHINES & IMPLEMENTS.
WHEELER, MELICK & CO. continue
 their manufactory at the corner of Hamilton and Liberty streets, Albany, where they are prepared to fill all orders with despatch. Orders for



Wheeler's Patent Railway Chain Horse Powers and OVERSHOT THRESHERS and SEPARATORS, will receive their prompt attention.

The large and increasing demand for these Machines has induced the proprietors to erect a new and spacious Manufactory, and other wise extend their means of promptly filling orders. Their Powers and Threshers have been sold in nearly every State in the Union, during the past year, and their superiority has been acknowledged by numerous testimonials, not only from Agricultural Societies but from persons who have used them. They have been awarded the First Premiums at all the principal Fairs where they have been exhibited in operation, including the Pennsylvania State Fair, the Provincial Fair of Upper Canada, and the Michigan and Ohio State Fairs, together with numerous County Exhibitions in the different States.

THE TWO HORSE MACHINE, with from three to five hands, will thresh from 125 to 200 bushels of Wheat per day, or twice that quantity of Oats.

The One Horse Machine will thresh rather more than half that quantity.

PRICE AT ALBANY.

For Two Horse Machines.....\$145 00

For One Horse do.....\$120 00

Machines will be shipped to any part of the United States or the Canada.

The subscribers are now shipping Powers and Threshers to their agents on the Mississippi and Ohio rivers, and in the interior of the States bordering on those rivers, and to all the principal ports on the Lakes, as well as to their numerous agents in the interior of the Lake States. They will be delivered at all our agencies with only the cost of transportation added to our home prices. Persons wanting to purchase, may by writing to us, learn where they can obtain our machines most conveniently.

N. B.—Our Machines are warranted as heretofore to work to the satisfaction of the purchaser, or they may be returned within 60 days after they are received, and the purchase money (if paid) will be refunded.

We want a few more agents in most of the States. To competent men who can give satisfactory references, liberal commissions will be allowed.

WHEELER, MELICK & CO.,
 Corner of Hamilton and Liberty sts., Albany, N. Y.,
 [Near the Steamboat Landing.]

Caution.

The subscribers, Patentees of **WHEELER'S PATENT HORSE POWERS**, having noticed that an agricultural firm is advertising that Wheeler's Patent Horse Powers and Overshot Threshers are manufactured and sold by them, when in fact they have not obtained from us any liberty to use our Patent, we hereby caution all persons that said firm has no right to use our patent, or to manufacture or sell said Horse Powers, and that a sale by them will confer no right upon the purchaser to use such Power.

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Who is the first and original inventor of the present improved mode of constructing these Powers, and who has been constantly engaged in the manufacture and sale of Horse Powers, Threshing Machines, &c., for the last ten years. On this account, with his facilities for carrying on the business, and his knowledge of the wants of the Farmers of this country, he is satisfied he does and can execute this kind of work in a manner not to be excelled by any manufacturer in this country.

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RAILROAD HORSE POWER

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THE attention of the farming public is solicited to the newly improved Railroad Horse Power, as now made by the subscribers. Also to their Overshot Spike Cylinder Threshers, with Vibrating and Revolving Separators.

Having had much experience in the sale and manufacture of Horse Powers and other Agricultural Implements; and being acquainted very extensively with the wants of the farmers of this country, as well as the character of most of the implements and machines now in use, we think we hazard nothing in pronouncing our latest improved Powers far superior to any before made or sold by us, or with which we are acquainted.

At the late Fair of the New York State Agricultural Society, held at Albany, their committee on Horse Powers unanimously awarded us the highest premium for the best Railroad Horse Power, among the large number of the most popular and approved kinds of the day, which were on exhibition and in competition—it being considered the most efficient and durable on the ground.

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mend and warrant them equal, if not superior, to any before made or sold by us, or of which we have any knowledge.

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Having heretofore been obliged to have a large portion of some parts of our work done by contract, we have felt the inconvenience and waste of dependence to be placed upon the quality of materials and workmanship; we have now so extended our facilities, as to enable us to make all parts of all our own machines, and can now assure the public that none but the best work and stock will be offered by us.

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